WORLD / A22
Muslims hit
Pope's remarks on Islam

BUSINESS / B1
7-month OFW
remittances up 15.8% to $7B

METRO / A19
10 SPD cops face kidnap
charges for detaining Japanese trader

SATURDAY SPECIAL / F3
Stallone, other top
luminaries line up new starrers

It's a vast junkyard out there, way out there

HOUSTON—IT'S A JUNKyard out there. Way out there.

Although they don't mean to, astronauts accidentally contribute to the litter in space.

In 1965, the first American spacewalker, Ed White,

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, September 16, 2006 44 Sections / Vol. 21 / No. 280 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Atong Ang loses fight against extradition

By Armand N. Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE IMMINENT extradition from the United States of Charlie "Atong" Ang, a gambling czar of ousted President Estrada, and wants him to testify on the 1999 abduction and murder of Edgardo Bentain, an employee of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

ATONG ANG, A19

Nicole's ma bares 'offer'

Says prosecutor proposed settlement with accused US soldiers

By Volt Contreras

THE MOTHER OF THE FILipino complainant in the Subic rape case has not only assailed the supposed incompetence of the public prosecutors but also alleged that their leader had "proposed" a settlement with the accused US Marines.

Speaking with reporters a day after she and her daughter "Nicole" walked out of the courtroom of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon—only minutes before the 1 p.m. hearing was to start, the mother claimed that Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Fe de los Santos began floating the purported proposal in July and warned that if Nicole's family passed up this option, "your daughter's case might be mulled off with the Hacienda case (kung hindi, baka yung iba ng anak mipo-mapag-isipuhil ng Bokkate case)."

It was a reference to former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, who is now being held in a US detention center.

The mother said De los Santos gave no indication of what this possible "trade" could mean in connection with Bolante's case.

Readied by phone in Bilibid, an enraged De los Santos denied having pushed for a settlement.

"It was her (Nicole's mother) who asked me for advice in case there will be a negotiation, what will be its effects," De los Santos said, adding:

"Ngayon binabaligtad niyo (Now she's turning it around). That's a lie. They asked for advice and I merely explained the procedure, but that doesn't mean I was pushing for the negotiation."

NICOLE'S MA, A2

Leftist solons say they're no enemies of the state

By Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

A LEFTIST CONGRESSMAN YESTERDAY warned military statements branding him and another lawmaker "enemies of the state" would encourage more attacks on militants in the country.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said labeling him and fellow Congressman Satur Ocampo was the "Arroyo government's way of justifying political killings."

He said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's statement "not only sanctions but encourages attacks versus our party."

He called on the Melo Commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into political killings to "immediately censure Esperon for his irresponsible and dangerous remarks."

Statements attributed to retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan had described Ocampo and Casiño as enemies of the state and party-list groups as communist fronts.

Asked during a hearing of the commission if the entire Armed Forces shared that view, Esperon said the while leftist groups like Bayan were our enemies of the state, some of their members belonged to the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, which were enemies of the state.

LEFTIST, A2

ON THE PENULTIMATE leg of her trip to Europe, Cuba and the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo arrives in Havana with Philippine Ambassador to Cuba George Reyes (second from right) and is welcomed by Cuban Higher Education Minister Juan Vela Valdés (right) and other Cuban officials at the Jose Marti International Airport. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA in Cuba; meet with Castro eyed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVANA, CUBA (VIA FLIT)—AN EBULlient President Macapagal-Arroyo, energized by a successful session to woo both European investors, arrived here late Thursday (Friday morning in Manila) to attend the 14th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The President was given full military honors, with Cuba's First Vice President Raul Castro—who has temporarily taken over from his sick brother, President Fidel Castro—strolling her down the red carpet at the Jose Marti International Airport.

As of press time yesterday, Philippine officials were said to be trying to wangle a visit with the ailing Castro for Ms Arroyo during her 19-hour stay in Havana.

The President is scheduled to fly to Honolulu—the last leg of her five-na-

GMA IN CUBA, A5

Fishing banned in Guimaras

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVANA (via FLIT)—THE WAters around Guimaras and nearby islands are to be declared no-fishing zones after President Macapagal-Arroyo heeded the suggestion of the British marine conservation group Coral Cay.

She has also accepted an offer by the Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard, to visit the Philippines in February to make an environmental assessment of Guimaras Island, recently hit by the country's worst oil spill, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday covering Ms Arroyo's trip to Europe and the Americas.

At home, officials of Guimaras filed the first criminal complaints against officers of Petron Corp. and the owner of the sunken tanker Solar1.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava and other Guimaras officials filed the complaint on Thursday against Petron Corp. president Khalid Al-Buhlagh and Clemente Cenzo, president of the Sasabinar Maritime Development Corp. (SMDC), for violating three environmental laws.

Also named respondents were Petron officials Nilanes Alcantara (plant and chief executive officer), Pelenio Antipuesto (vice president for operations) and Carlos Tan (health safety and environment of-

FISHING, A18

A DIVER marvels at the sight of a school of jacks swimming freely in the protected depths of the Tubbataha Reef. CENTRAL TECHNOTES

Tubbataha park area now 3 times bigger

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES' LARGEST OFFSHORE reef and the only natural marine park in Southeast Asia inscribed in the World Heritage List just got three times bigger.

The 33,200-ha Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park has been expanded to an encircling 98,028 ha and renamed Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 23.

The TRNP now includes the 45-ha Jessie Beazley reef located 13 nautical miles north of Tubbataha, which is also within the political jurisdiction of the municipality of Cagayancillo in Palawan. The reef, a favorite among sport divers, is a huge coral pillar rising from the depths to just below the surface of the water. Beneath the small top of the reef are steep walls which house an incredible array of marine life.

Proclamation No. 1126 reinstated the

TUBBATAHA, A18

Rape trial postponed while DOJ resolves row

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Armand N. Nocum

THE LEFTMOST FRONTROW seats in the courtroom were empty when the trial of four US Marines accused of conspiring to rape a Filipina woman at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005, resumed yesterday afternoon.

The defense was scheduled to recall its third witness to the stand, but complainant "Nicole," her mother and her staunch supporters were not at their usual seats. They walked out of the courtroom on Thursday complaining about the purported incompetence of the prosecution panel.

Of the five state prosecutors, Hazel Valdez, Elizabeth Rovilal and Nedilyen Quiambao showed up, but rode to meet Judge Benjamin Pozon and defense lawyers on sidebar and, in light of Nicole's request for the Department of Justice to replace all but one of them, seek the hearing's postponement.

The three promised that the hearing would push through on Monday, at which time, they said, the DOJ would have resolved the issue.

RAPE, A2

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Quezon area will experience thirty-minute bursts of thunderstorms between afternoon and evening. Rest of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Metro Manila will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Email us your comments and suggestions at inquirer.com.ph; text your full response to 2327 (Globe or Smart).

Witness to confirm Inquirer story

By Tina G. Santos

JOURNALIST ARLYN DELA CRUZ YESTERDAY disclosed that a witness would soon surface to "confirm" the story she had written about "antiterrorism expert" Sam Macapinlac.

Macapinlac reportedly managed to breach airport security and brought bomb components on board a flight from Manila to Davao last Aug. 14.

"From nowhere, one person came out and told his story confirming everything. I would like to thank him because from the very start he knew about it. But I never talked him. I never asked for his help, pero nagsalita siya [but he spoke up] to confirm the story," Dela Cruz told reporters when she presented herself to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday morning.

However, Dela Cruz, who was accompanied by her husband and lawyer Fermiano Paghingayan, did not name the witness, but explained he was a member of the media.

"I don't want to mention his name; I want to protect him, marunggal siyang kasama sa hanapbuhay [he's an honorable man to work with]," she added.

Sources, investigators believe that should the witness testify, his statements would be vital as it would corroborate Dela Cruz's claim that Macapinlac had shown her a video of how he was able to get the explosive and its components past security personnel and how he assembled it on the plane.

Dela Cruz talked to officials of the NBI Special Task Force yesterday but she has yet to submit a formal statement on Tuesday, particularly on what happened before, during and after her interview with Macapinlac.

Atty. Delfin Lorenzo, executive officer of NBI OIC, said they would issue another subpoena requiring Macapinlac to submit the "missing video" which he supposedly showed to Dela Cruz.

Dalanginlaa added that they would also ask the aviation officials to submit a copy of the tape taken by three security cameras on Aug. 14.

The NBI said they had already summoned Daniel Cruz, a longtime friend of Dela Cruz through whom she met Macapinlac, to shed light on the issue.

Cruz was expected to appear at the NBI on Monday.

Security personnel

In an earlier article she had written for the Inquirer, Dela Cruz mentioned that Cruz was a source, who, in the past, had given her exclusive leads on stories not normally released to the media.

Apart from Dela Cruz, five aviation security personnel—Alberto Red at Charity Gamido, Rivaldo Mangak and Modesto Santiago, both X-ray machine operators and Cebgo Lazaro and Rudy Dizon, both Mobile—also presented themselves to the NBI yesterday.

They were accompanied by lawyer Ruhainah Paloyoda and Chief Insp. Roger Sindito, head of the domestic airport terminal police station.

Macapinlac supposedly got past the five aviation security personnel who were on duty last Aug. 14, the day Macapinlac reportedly carried out the "test."

No jacket

However, the five aviation security personnel claimed they did not notice or detect Macapinlac carrying anything unusual.

Sindito said the closed circuit television (CCTV) showed that Macapinlac boarded the 7:40 a.m. Manila to Davao flight.

Macapinlac surrendered the 9 mm he was carrying, passed through metal and security detector which included the X-ray machines and frisking, Sindito said.

He added that Macapinlac was not wearing a jacket, as claimed by Dela Cruz in her story. "He was wearing a striped polo shirt and he was carrying a backpack."

Sindito also stressed that their security machines were 100 percent accurate.

Concern for country

Meanwhile, Dela Cruz said she was standing by her story.

"It was not my intention to bring the country down ... That was not the intention of the Inquirer. I believe that was not the intention of Sam," Dela Cruz said.

She added that she wrote the story because she was impressed with Macapinlac's "concern for the country."

"He wanted the recommendations done that he gave after the 'test' was mentioned to be implemented. He was quite disturbed that he got past security, he wanted to correct the [situation] that's what I saw in him," Dela Cruz said.

Stay strong, Gonzales advice to PCGG head

By Cff C. Cabacungan, Jr.

MANILA (UA, P.GIT)—THE FIRST Cabinet official of the Arroyo administration at the receiving end of the Senate's wrath for non-cooperation in legislative probes has this advice for Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio: "Stay strong."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said he called up Sabio two days ago when he learned the senators that the Senate ordered the latter's detention for failing to appear at a hearing.

"I told him to fight and continue. I believe that he is on the right side of this. Knowing the characters behind I think it is a case of presidential-type thwarting at the expense of a public official who is quietly serving the public," said Gonzales.

Gonzales described Sabio as "a model of uprightness and righteousness in giving public service, really speaking."

Despite, who was also detained by the Senate last year after he refused to name the financiers of a contract he had entered into with a US$486.8m to get satellite fleeting for President Diosdado Arroyo's plans to amend the Constitution, said the latest scrape by the Senate is Sabio's official shrewd the "level of arrogance of some senators."

"I don't know what the Senate is trying to do with Camilo," Gonzales said. "You do not get the truth by coercing people and by threatening to other human beings that you are superior."

He said that while he was mostly confined to a hospital room at the Philippine Heart Center during his detention, Gonzales said that "being confined is the same for like President Erap serving that it might be in a golden cage but it is still in a cage.

He branded the Senate's action as a form of "torture" to assert their supremacy. "It's not the kind of lead-ership that our nation deserves. I think our people should only exercise the behavior of some of our senators. I hope this practice ends."

HABEAS CORPUS CASE

Senate to field Joker in SC fight

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

IN ITS LATEST SKIRTLE IN THE SUPREME Court, the Senate will again field its legal eagle Sen. Joker Arroyo in fight the defiant position of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Arroyo will champion the cause of the Senate despite his being identified by PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio as the one who drafted the issuance order of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo placing the PCGG commissioners and its staff from appearing in any political, legislative and administrative proceedings.

Arroyo, executive secretary of Aquino, represented the Senate in its successful fight against President Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo's Executive Order 464 prohibiting officials from testifying in legislative inquiries without her permission.

The SC declared Sabio's motion for habeas corpus and ordered the Senate to produce Sabio, who has been arrested and held in detention by the Senate, on Sept. 21.

"We're going to give first crack to Joker. It's his call," Senate President Manuel Villar said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

Villar said he informed Arroyo about this assignment but Arroyo has yet to confirm his acceptance.

At press time, Arroyo could not be contacted for comment.

Villar said Arroyo is having drafted Aquino's Executive Order 1 should not be an issue, adding this time around, he is better prepare to argue the unconstitutionality of the immunity provision.

"He is the one who knows the issue very well," Villar said.

Sen. Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Sen. ate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, said the Senate was going to get a private counsel to argue its position before the high court.

Gordon's committee is investigating the "anomalous losses" of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. and the Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

It was Gordon's committee that ordered the arrest of Sabio, four other PCGG commissioners and Philcomsat officials for repeatedly snubbing its invitations. Only Sabio has been arrested so far.

Gordon said some senators were of the opinion that Sabio should appear before the Senate before the SC. The appearance of Sabio is urging against SO 464 was "by inference" of the senators, Gordon said. But he said it was up to Villar to make the decision.

Gordon said the Senate position—that the detail of immunity on the PCGG was unnecessary, unwanted and unsolicited—was "cut and dried" for Arroyo to argue.

At Thursday's hearing, where a defiant Sabio engaged Gordon and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in a shouting match, the 74-year-old PCGG chair invoked SO 1 as justifying his refusal to submit to the Senate and answer the senators' queries on the alleged misuse of assets of sequestered corporations.

Sabio said Arroyo, then Aquino's executive secretary, has authorized by dated SO 1 because he acts [acts] that state personalities who could be charged for the ill-gotten wealth cases could "later on become members of the Senate and they could, through the use of the power to investigate to aid of legislation, hamper and deter the efforts of the PCGG," in its recovery efforts.

Sabio also put Enrile, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Sen. Edgardo Angara on the spot. He said Enrile was one of those accused before the PCGG, while Biazon and Angara belonged to the law firm which represented Cojuangco in the cases they cases.

"At least the three, they are now in the Senate and therefore they could hamper—if they want to hamper investigation. I do not wish to mention those things but I am compelled to, much to my regret," Sabio said.

Villar and Gordon expressed confidence the SC would again uphold the power of the Senate to compel officials to appear in its legislative inquiries.

"I am confident that we will win this case," Villar said, saying the high court has always respected the independence of its co-equal branch.

Villar stood by the committee investigation, saying he does not agree with Sabio's position that he and his fellow commissioners are not accountable to legislative inquiries.

"For 20 years, this agency has claimed it cannot be touched by any of the three branches of government," Gordon said.

Regarding the bust for other PCGG officers, former sergeant-at-arms retired Gen. Jose Mallari said he would request the help of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation in catching the elusive fugitive commissioners and Philcomsat officials.

"If they are out of town and our resources are lacking, we will ask the help of the PNP and the NBI in serving the warrant," Mallari said.

A senator told the Inquirer that the Senate may have to ask the police to provide the cooperation of the PNP in serving the warrant for the PCGG and Philcomsat officials.

"We need to get the full cooperation of the police, how will we get it very minimal cooperation. We are doing it solo," the senator said.

Mallari also warned officials or civilians pretending the Philippine volunteers, saying the Senate would take up after them.

"If there is a warrant of arrest and you try to evade it, you are a fugitive. And if you help the fugitive [hide from] the law], you can be charged with harboring a fugitive," Balajadia said.

Asked if President Macapagal-Arroyo could be considered as harboring a fugitive because Renato Ramirez, board chair of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp., is part of her delegation in her 9-day foreign trip, Balajadia responded that Ramirez was already out of the country when the Senate issued the warrant.

Stop Philcomsat probe, Abcede tells Senate

By Alcuin Papa

CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISsion on Good Government Commissioner Ricardo Abcede yesterday called on the Senate to stop hearings on the Philcomsat issue, saying it was up to the Supreme Court to decide whether there should be any hearings or not.

"The hearings should not be held for now until the Supreme Court resolved the issue of whether we can answer the inquiries or not. If they insist, we (PCGG officials) will still be constrained to invoke SO 1. Then we will just be going around in circles. My request is to wait for the SC decision," Abcede said.

In a phone interview, Abcede also said senators should withdraw the arrest warrants against him and other PCGG commissioners and to release PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio from detention.

"I am confident the Supreme Court will decide [on the petition] soon enough. Then we will just be going around in circles. My request is to wait for the SC decision," Abcede said.

In a phone interview, Abcede also said senators should withdraw the arrest warrants against him and other PCGG commissioners and to release PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio from detention.

If the Supreme Court decides that the PCGG officials must testify, then Abcede said "they are willing appear and answer any questions and under any conditions that the courts will stipulate."

Abcede, PCGG Commissioner for Asset Management, added that if the Senate really insisted to get to the bottom of the Philcomsat issue, it should instead go to court records on record 10 Philcomsat cases.

"Chairman Sabio is right. These matters are pending in court. There are public records, till the Senate needs to do is to get the court records, they can do that. Maybe they are just interested in grandstanding. If they want to get to the truth, they can get the court records," Abcede said.

Answering questions from the Senate, he said, would reveal "carefully guarded secrets and documents" being held by the PCGG and which they needed to use in the court cases related to the Philcomsat issue.

"If these (Philcomsat) documents are to be revealed, I am sure it will jeopardize our other cases will be open to scrutiny. How about our legal strategy? How about the documents that are our spring in other cases? These will be all be compromised. Our opponents have good lawyers. That is the reason we are preserving our right," he explained.

The senator also said Abcede also lashed off from adding more fuel to his word was with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

"All I am asking from him is to let him, evaluate, and less emotional about this issue. Let us do our job," he said.

Nonetheless, Abcede said he would continue to cooperate on the contempt issued against him by the Senate. "Oh, I'm willing. The senate wants to detain me? Let them find me."

Trillanes can run but behind bars, says military

By Dona Z. Pazolbuga

SAN LUIS ANTONIO, THE LADRONES, Philippines (The Magnificent) — Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, who is running for president in 2010, will be campaigning behind bars, should he decide to run for the Senate next year, the military said yesterday.

"The military grappled with the implications of having the **pantomime leader of the July 2003 Oakwood** mutiny run for national office given that he and 30 other junior officers were **undergoing general court-martial.**

A spokesperson said while Trillanes had the right to resign from the service to run for office, he would surely remain detained with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

"We will still have jurisdiction over him. He will remain in detention," said Lt. Col. Theodorus Baczaro, chief of the Armed Forces public information office.

On Thursday, a lawyer said Trillanes was "seriously considering" running for the Senate. He was urged by colleagues who have grown frustrated with the lack of progress in their cases.

"Some of his colleagues think this may be a good forum for them to continue their fight for reforms in the military and to empower the lot of the Filipino people. There have also been a number of representatives from political parties inviting him (to their slate)," said lawyer Reynaldo Robles.

Robles said Trillanes and his fellow Magdalo officers were still hopeful they would be absolved of the cases against them and reinstated in the military.

"This is a major deviation for a career military officer like him. He's trained to be a soldier first he said that if the situation demands this of him, he will not have second thoughts about giving up his career. He's making the sacrifice," he added.

Robles, however, stressed that Trillanes had not made up his mind, since moving for office meant he would have to give up his military career for good.

In Hilongburg, Intendent Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the law would say whether or not Trillanes is qualified to run for office.

"There is no stopping anybody from stopping anybody from seeking an elective position but we have to face up to the legal requirements," Ermita said, in reaction to an Inquirer report that Trillanes was seriously considering to run in the 2007 senatorial race.

"Since he (Trillanes) is charged, as a matter of security, Langkit decided any knowledge of the so-called "Oplan Getaway," which the military claimed to be a plan by rebel Scout Ranger officers to assault Fort Bonifacio last February.

Langkit has lost considerable weight since he was presented to the media last April 2 after he was arrested by military authorities in Quezon City.

Langkit was immediately whisked away by air military escort, **four of whom were in plainclothes,** to a waiting van to avoid the media.

Langkit however was able to slip a note to a reporter, quoting a Biblical verse: "For you can not do anything against the truth, but only for the sake of it."

He has been detained at the Intelligence Security Group (ISG) compound in Fort Bonifacio with some of the "Magdalo" rebel officers.

"He's in a pig pen," Langkit's twin brother Daniel said as persons above his living conditions for the last five months.

He described Langkit's cell as one by three inches wide, with the solar right inside the room.

Langkit sleeps and eats in this room which is almost dust, and has very little ventilation.

Langkit is barely given time to **pee himself** and to exercise, according to Daniel.

"He said it's uncomfortable place. He said he never expected he'll be treated like this," said Daniel.

Langkit's family is truly allowed to see him for just an hour on Saturdays and Sundays. "He's always hungry when we see him," Daniel said.

He said his brother was never informed of the charges against him until last month when he was brought to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal for the pre-trial investigation of **Scout Ranger officers led by former** commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

Langkit, however, had no interest at the time.

His lawyer Melchi Peralta said they are planning to ask the Army to transfer Langkit to Camp Capinpin to join Lim and other Scout Rangers similarly linked to the Feb. 24 mutiny plot.

"We're still studying our options," Peralta said.

According to the military, Langkit went absent without official leave (AWOL) last Jan. 17 when four Oakwood mutineers escaped from an army detention facility.

He was arrested last April 2 outside Mel's Restaurant along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Langkit was not among the 28 (sic) officers led by Lim who were originally recommended for court-martial in connection with **the February coup attempt.** But his name was later included.

Langkit is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '91.

Security pullout sparks uproar

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines recently recalled all military personnel detailed as security escorts of politicians, including those of former President Corazon Aquino.

The pullout of Mrs. Aquino's security detail sparked immediate criticism from the House minority, which accused the Arroyo administration of playing a "dangerous political game" that may put at risk the life of the former head of state.

"It's politically motivated," charged House Minority Majority Leader Ilias Pete Cayetano in a phone interview. Mrs. Aquino—hailed as an icon of democracy worldwide—was informed of the pullout of her security detail in a letter from the AFP in August.

A spokesperson of the Armed Forces, however, said they never had any intention to pull out former president Aquino's security detail. It was a misunderstanding, said Maj. Gen. Jose Mercado, who admitted that there was some confusion in the implementation of an order to recall military security escorts of some VIPs for training and review.

"Mrs. Aquino never lost her security detail. I'll be the first to get worried if she happens," assured General Mercado, who once served as Mrs. Aquino's aide. The assignment of Mrs. Aquino's personal security aide, Sgt. Rosendo Lacson, has already been removed, he was quick to assure.

He said the Armed Forces is currently reviewing the deployment of military personnel as security escorts of top officials, businessmen, retired generals and other public personalities.

"We are trying to account for our personnel," Mercado said.

Senator Sen. Tarlac Sing. Benigno Aquino III, had earlier told reporters that his mother's five-man security detail in 1992 had dwindled to one soldier in recent months, "and even this last, single soldier was taken away."

He said the former president had already written Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz about the security pullout. "But until now we have not received any reply," Sen. Aquino lamented.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed the recent pullout of detailed security forces but assured that those entitled to them would get replacements. He also dismissed the view that security details for public personalities should come from the police force.

Ermita said they wanted to "rationalize the set-up." He denied that the move was aimed against Cha's political enemies.

Under the law, those entitled to a security detail are former presidents, **former first ladies, the incumbent** Senate President and House Speaker, and the chairs of the Senate and House defense committees.

The same measures, congressmen, retired generals and private individuals have asked for the same privilege over the years.

After this pullout and rioters, some public officials will have to reserve their request for details.

Michael Lim Ubac, Cherlene D. Arevalo and Nono Pazolbuga

Detained captain allowed to answer coup raps

By Dona Z. Pazolbuga

AN ARMY CAPTAIN WHO HAS been languishing in military confinement for five months now was finally allowed to leave his detention cell yesterday to submit his reply to charges of attempted mutiny before the Judge Advocate General's Office in Camp Aguinaldo.

Capt. Danny Langkit of the elite Scout Ranger regiment, who was implicated in the Feb. 24 coup plot, has been in detention in an Army facility since the arrest five months ago.

In his counter-affidavit yesterday, Langkit denied any knowledge of the so-called "Oplan Getaway," which the military claimed to be a plan by rebel Scout Ranger officers to assault Fort Bonifacio last February.

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Imelda pleads not guilty to another corruption case

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA Marcos on Thursday pleaded "not guilty" plea to a 10-year-old graft case filed against her before the Sandiganbayan.

The widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was assigned to her alleged violation of the provisions of Republic Act 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, relating to her alleged failure to file her statement of assets and liabilities.

Marcos, who was accompanied by her lawyers, Jose Flaminiano and Jose Roy III, was arraigned before Sandiganbayan Fifth Division Presiding Justice Francisco Villaruz Jr.

Villaruz, however, ordered the suspension of the arraignment of Marcos' co-accused, Rolando Gapuz, a former Bureau of Customs deputy collector for the Port of Manila, because of his medical condition.

Gapuz was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital after he suffered a heart attack while undergoing detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Marcos' lawyers manifested that they will file a motion for reconsideration of the court's denial of their motion to quash the information filed against her.

Marcos and Gapuz are facing charges for violating Section 8 of RA 3019 in connection with the alleged failure of the former to file her statement of assets and liabilities for the years 1982 to 1985 when she was still the governor of Metro Manila.

Prosecutors said Marcos failed to file her statement of assets and liabilities despite the fact that she was receiving a salary of P3,000 a month as governor of Metro Manila.

Gapuz, on the other hand, was charged with violating Section 3 (e) of RA 3019 for allegedly causing undue injury to the government when he approved the release of the amount of P1,000,000 to Marcos.

The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division ordered the prosecution's petition to disallow Marcos' travel abroad for a medical treatment because of the absence of any record of her arraignment and her withdrawal of the travel bond she gave the court.

Despite going through arraignment on Thursday, Marcos remains listed by the Bureau of Immigration as a fugitive from justice.

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Naia reopens domestic Runway 13/31

By Nikko Dizon

NCCP President Hubert Castro leads Friday's reopening rites of the Manila Domestic terminal runway. JAY ISRAEL

THE DOMESTIC WING OF the Ninoy Aquino International Airport resumed operations yesterday after undergoing two months of repairs and face lifting.

Vice President Noli de Castro led the ceremonies to formally reopen Runway 13/31.

The first takeoff to take off from the runway at 11:40 a.m. was Cebu Pacific flight XJ 963 bound for Davao.

The re-opening of Runway 13/31 is expected to ease the traffic congestion in the international wing of the NAIA 1 and 2 terminals.

Runway 06-24 and southern flight delays.

Since repair work on the domestic runway started last April, domestic flights have been using the international runway.

The Manila International Airport Authority said it had to undertake the repair of the domestic runway to keep it within the global standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The last rehabilitation work on runway 13/31 were last made in 1996.

After the ceremonies, De Castro and other officials—Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Solicitor General Edmundo Medroso, and Mian general manager Alfonso Davis—proceeded to Naia's Terminal 3 to inspect the facility's ceiling where collapse is said to be one of the factors that is delaying the facility's opening.

De Castro said the terminal would be fully operational by the first quarter of 2007.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the terminal fully operational by December in anticipation of increased tourist arrivals but rehabilitation work on some sections would not make this possible, he said.

De Castro said the government already paid P5 billion to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the consortium that built Naia 3.

He said he hoped that there would be no more hardware to delay the opening of the terminal.

"This should have opened a long time ago. But these construction collapsed inside. Then the International Chamber of Commerce arbitration court ruled in favor of the pilots. But things are clearer now. We have been allowed [by the Court of Appeals] to pay the P5 billion, so I think it will be all systems go," he said in Filipino.

Pinlac, whose contract for Naia 3 was voided by the government, brought its suit for lost concession unless to the Singapore-based ICC, which ruled that the government cannot take over the facility without paying just compensation.

The P5 billion is what the Arroyo team hosting the Naia 3 expropriation case has ordered the government to pay Pinlac as initial payment before it can issue a writ of possession.

De Castro believes the adverse ruling will not affect the Supreme Court's decision in the expropriation case.

"We have never doubted that because [the Supreme Court] is the ultimate arbiter of the law," he said.

Mendoza said he was pleased to conduct the ceremonies in behalf of Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who is abroad.

Mendoza said the government will bid out Naia 1 by the end of the year or the first quarter of 2007 to recover the money it spent in expropriating the facility including an extra 40 million to fund additional repairs and improvements.

Manuel Pangilinan, chairman of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which owns Mian, said he was pleased with the reopening of the runway.

"We're very happy that the runway is now open. It will help ease the congestion in the airport," he said.

Pangilinan said he was also pleased with the progress of the rehabilitation work on the terminal.

"We're very happy with the progress of the work. We're hoping that it will be completed soon," he said.

Gov't urged to set stringent rules for Naia 3 auction

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS yesterday urged the Arroyo administration to draw up more stringent rules to ensure a transparent auction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III by next year.

Representatives Mauricio Pastorfide and Federico Sandoval II, chair and vice chair respectively of the House committee on transportation, said the government should learn its lessons from the controversial contract with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) that allowed Asia Pacific Integrated Port Terminals Inc. to develop the Subic International Container Terminal.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Davao contract violated public policy and provisions of the build-operate-transfer law.

"Government officials should be careful to avoid the legal problems that developed in the case of the Subic terminal. In fact, Subic is very important facility and is also window of the country to the world.

"There is no doubt a lot of parties will be interested in participate in the bidding and operate it," Pastorfide said.

"There should be no haste in the public bidding. We should study well the bidding procedures and terms to ensure everything will be above board and government interest will be well-protected," he said.

He said that while government needs to raise the facility "at the soonest possible time, the best interest of the economy must not be sacrificed."

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AMBITIOUS EQUALS

GMA in Cuba; meet with Castro eyed

A-principal

first, 15-day trip to Europe and the Americas that started with the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki—for the ceremonial celebration of the arrival of the first Philippine ship.

Cuba is this year hosting the three-day summit of NAM heads of states and governments, of which 118 countries are represented.

The NAM, an organization of states which consider themselves not formally aligned with or against any power bloc, initially convened in Belgrade. Tito, founder, at the height of the Cold War in 1961.

Subsequent conferences, ably assisted the increasing participation of developing countries, featured widespread condemnation of Western colonialism and other excesses of foreign military institutions. In recent years, the NAM's focus has shifted away from essentially political issues to the advocacy of addressing global economic and other problems.

The summit is meeting this week as the US is pushing for unilateral sanctions, which last ignored in Aug. 23, United Nations disapproves as unsanctioning sessions.

Castro has been vocal in supporting Tehran which also received support from the meeting. NAM leaders are expected to adopt a statement asserting Iran's right to acquire and use nuclear energy and technology for peaceful means.

The United States has faced some sharp verbal attacks at the Havana meeting. Several of the speakers assailed their thought the Bush the world that created the NAM had disappeared, the organization remained relevant as a tool for developing nations to counter US global might.

Because of its "special relationship" with the United States, the Philippines was not admitted as a member until after the US bases were expelled during the administration of President Aquino in 1992.

According to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the President will reaffirm on the three pillars of her foreign policy—economic diplomacy, political diplomacy and promotion of the welfare and well-being of the Filipino people—in her meetings with other leaders at the NAM, including bilateral members of the discussion of fourteen states Bolivia.

Among the initiatives that the approach capacity to present an interfaith dialogue for peace and development in solving terrorism, the adoption of a migrant workers' initiative for the protection of some 8 million overseas Filipino workers, and a debt initiative to lower debt payments of low- and middle-income developing nations to free up their money for education, health and the environment.

The President came to Cuba fresh from a series of fruitful meetings with European political and business leaders.

In her visit to Finland, Belgium and the United Kingdom, she was able to convince European leaders that the war on terror alone is unable to solve the killings of leftist activists and journalists in the Philippines by agreeing to an investigation by independent European bodies, including the Ombudsman Amnesty International.

In London, the President met British business leaders at the Asia House seminar on Business Process Outsourcing in which she said that the Philippines was ready for business with the investment opening of the Visiting Agreement and Mutual Airport. "We have it and the country's continued rise as the preferred site for call services and other high-value BPO services.

She said she was confident that the resolution of the Basa-way ownership dispute over Mole Island between the government, the Philippine International Petroleum Co., and its German shareholder, Petrom, should review confidence in the country among European investors who have questioned the Philippines' seemingly flexible rules of business.

In her speech at the Asia-House conference, the President said, "The new lifestyle international export is a vital sublayer asset that must be turned to long term to produce the war."

She assured her audience that Project would be fully completed.

Leftist solons say they're no enemies . . .

A-principal

Opposition called Esperon's statement "Bushesque propaganda"—a reference to Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister of German dictator Adolf Hitler.

Quintos, a Hitler-duped collaborator leader, said it was "unbelievable" for the Office Commission on Audit to release the funds of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police on the flimsy allegations in light of allegations linking security forces to the killing of more than 300 political activists since Mrs. Arroyo came to power in 2001.

Quintos said the commission's presence created an impression that it would do what the Armed Forces chief wanted. "It emphasizes it also accountability for the killings."

Killing fields

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who is overseeing the Mr. Arroyo in her current hearings trip, said there had been too much emphasis on claims about alleged government-sponsored killing in the killings and added that "hanging" unsubstantiated accusations into the country would put the spotlight on everybody."

Mr. Arroyo has invited groups from the United Nations and Europe, including itinerary International, to join in a probe into the killings.

"The visit of these international leaders will indirectly open up the cases of killing fields. These grave sites are a mix of old and new bodies, as fresh as one year ago," Esmaquel said.

Ghosts of the past

"What we have investigated, so far, showed that only 58 percent of the killings were done by the communists and we have strong reasons to believe that the rest were done by some military and police members, organized crime, and local politicians taking advantage of the unclear situation given to the government for these killings."

Esmaquel said: "This is a rightful opportunity not only to run down the ghosts of the past but also to set the record straight. We are in a way leaving both the dead to life because this is the only way to find the truth, to unshroud the mastermind(s) and to rectify."

He noted that the issue of killing fields had always been set aside in the past because the rebels did not want the matter included in the peace negotiations.

Early Gonzales verdict

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the investigation would be transparent and independent, adding: "Therefore it is a good observation."

Even before the AI and other European nongovernment organizations could drop on Philippine soil to start their inquiry, Gonzales already declared the government would be prepared to file cases against the perpetrators, to the extent of prosecuting them in international courts.

Police data obtained by the Inquirer yesterday appeared to point to a different picture of the killings.

According to the data, former left-affiliated activists also deviated, one of them was killed by leftists leftists in the NPA.

In a Sept. 12 update intended for the Mole Commission, the PNP's Task Force Usig said that 221 of 111 cases of activist killings were linked to the CPP and the NPA.

In his report of its report that state he examined with the findings of the human rights group Karapatan, the task force recorded 62 cases of increasing incidence of killings of leftist activists from 2001 to 2006.

Still, the task force said it found no evidence of a government policy to kill leftist elements or the political opposition.

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It's a vast junkyard . . .

A-principal

but a space plane when he went outside for the first time. From that time on, astronauts have accidentally added some of the most unusual items to the 1,000,000 pieces of space trash that is in Earth's.

Last July spacewalker Piers Sellers inexplicably reported that he lost a spatula. Nicknamed "spatula" by space junk watchers, it returns to Earth in a fireball early next month.

This week the silicate astronauts made their own wonderful notes to the space debris is lowered, a couple of bolts that escaped from the addition they were connecting to the international space station.

To engineers, this is no funny. Many of these pieces of space junk can kill astronauts, puncture satellites or at the very least wreak up expensive spots inside the.

"It's a problem that is growing in seriousness," said William Ailor, director of the Center for Orbital and Reentry Debris Studies at the Aerospace Corp. in Los Angeles. "It's really the small things that still get you."

Using radar and telescope sensors, Nasa and the Air Force track objects bigger than about 4 inches (10.2 cm). The official "low score" of space debris that came as of Thursday was 9,935. But the 90,000 objects smaller than that can be just as dangerous, zipping around Earth at more than 15,000 mph (24,138 kph). They are too hard to track.

Nasa has now debris bits of shrink-up solar, toothpaste, and shaving cream—all from space shuttle waste dumps—in an experiment placed outside of the international space station. The astronauts in officials at the Nasa orbital debris program lab in Johnson. Satellite was struck by some and fixed matter. Now Nasa doesn't dump human waste outside the space station.

Of all the items followed by the Air Force, the most unusual case was clear that wasn't necessarily meant to drop," said the Peterson Space Protection Officer David Wood of the First Space Control Squadron in Cheyenne Mountain. "The astronaut didn't necessarily mean to let go of the bolts the last couple days, but that happens."

So when groundwatchers measure outside, Nasa makes sure everything is unfastened—tools, bolts, the astronauts themselves.

"You worry about [losing tools] all the time," said former astronaut and spacewalker Jay Apt, noting that he never lost anything.

And well they should worry.

Not only are space junk dangerous or left, you can get sued, too. There are lawyers who monitor space junk because there is a complicated treaty about who is responsible when issues made debris cripples a satellite worth hundreds of millions of dollars, according to Mark Matney, a scientist in the orbital debris program at Johnson Space Center.

In the 1960s, America launched bushfuls of copper needles into Earth's orbit in an ill-conceived plan for protection war communications. Military said. Many of these needles were still up there. Other purposely jettisoned space junk once included bags of trash thrown overboard from the Russian space station Mir and plenty of equipment dropped by astronauts from spacewalkers firing the Hubble Space Telescope.

"I guess it's a junkyard, most of the problems are little things that cause dings, like your car," I guess," Matney said. Even so, the size of a needle no bigger "will do a significant amount of damage to most spacecraft."

And there are much bigger objects to worry about, including giant rocket bodies from launchers dating back more than 40 years.

All thinking what the biggest piece of space junk in orbit now is and be quickly since it is the international space station. The astronauts living aboard the orbiting laboratory don't think of it as junk, but to Matney "every spacecraft is destined to become debris." AP

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Oil firms cut anew prices of gasoline, diesel by 50c/liter

PETRON WORLD OIL PRICES CONdensing today, oil firms again lowered prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene products by 50 centavos a liter yesterday.

This is announcement price reduction seen all without Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and the Independent Flying V at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

They were followed at 6 a.m. by Petron, Chevron Phil., Total Petroleum and Unioil Petroleum Phil.

Total Phil. and Eastern Petroleum adjusted their prices at noon yesterday.

According to Department of Energy data, the regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped to a September average of $62.71 a barrel, from $68.91 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products plunged to an average of $67.20/bbl in the first 14 days of the month, from the August average of $69.61 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel fell to an average $61.51 a barrel during the Sept. 1 to 14 period, from the $65.37-a-barrel average posted last month.

Since the start of 2006, the oil companies have raised gasoline prices 18 times by a total of P9.4 per liter, diesel prices rose 15 times by a total of P7.38 a liter, while kerosene prices increased 19 times by a total of P9.38 a liter.

Recently, however, they have announced four price reductions in as many weeks as environmental oil prices continue to soften.

Yesterday's rollback brought premium unleaded gasoline prices down to between P39.74 and P42.16 a liter, diesel to between P34.36 and P36.46 a liter, and kerosene to between P37.61 and P42.30 a liter.

All prices are inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax. —Gerald L. Rivo

Manila to host 7th Asia-Pacific manning, training conference

THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT MANNing event, the 7th Asia-Pacific Manning and Training Conference, will again be held in Manila from May 8 to 9, 2006.

Organized by the UK-based conference operation, Lloyd's List events, the conference will focus on the rapidly emerging concept of "Corporate Social Responsibility" in relation to crew welfare and sustainable shipping practices.

To be held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, participants can register at +44(0)20 7017 5511 or on-line at www.seamanagementconferences.com.

"Philippine participants will find this year's event even more relevant with its revised format, topical debates and increased local participation," Lloyd's List events conference producer Caroline Holtwood noted.

"As in previous conferences, Filipino participants will be accorded special rates," she added.

The revised format will feature a pre-conference workshop on "Quality Assured Maritime Health Services in the Philippines" to be conducted by International Committee on Seafarers Welfare (ICSW) regional coordinator Dr. Suresh Idnani and ICSW ship project coordinator Dr. Nik Hobbs.

"Healthy seafarers build a healthy company and ultimately improve profits. This conference provides a great opportunity to present a health promotion initiative like the ICSW Seafarers Health Information Programme to the maritime industry," Dr. Nobbs remarked.

Delegates will also benefit from the presence of 25 world industry leaders who will analyze naval reviews issues affecting the manning of ships and crew training.

Due sixth speaker is Professor Capt. Stephen J. Gran, Director of the Maritime Institute Willem Ruvenaa Twenthelling West in the Netherlands, who will discuss the latest developments in maritime training and education.

"New training and educational formats are replacing the old, boring, irrelevant subjects and curricula that have created barriers to young people joining the industry. Here these new formats are changing the way seafarers are trained will be revealed at the conference," Capt. Gran said.

The Daily Gospel

Saturday, September 16, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Cornelius and Cyprian

1st Reading: 1 Cor 10:14-22
Gospel: Luke 6:43-49

Jesus said to his disciples, "No healthy tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is known by its fruit. It hence you do not gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles. Similarly the good person draws good things from the good stored in the heart, and an evil person draws evil things from the evil stored in the heart. For the speech speaks from the fullness of the heart.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord! Lord!' and not do what I say? I will show you what the one who comes to me and listens to my words and acts accordingly is like. That one is like the builder who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on rock. The river overflowed and the torrent [lashed] against that house, but could not carry it off because the house had been well built.

But the one who listens and does not act, is like a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation. The flood broke against it, and the house fell in ruin. And what tremendous disaster that was!"

Commentary

We find again the broad body and the sign blood of Christ in the wine and call you in his own Spirit. And we are not to accept the Spirit of God, given to us in baptism, confirmation and eucharist, by our actions and those of our communities, are we found to reject Jesus? Let us draw goodness from our lives, if all for others to find and from agents? What life our hearts? Does giddy call Jesus "Lord" yet do not obey? Are we shallow believers, without foundation, substance and practice? This is a good examination of conscience using Jesus' own words.

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DepEd head, teachers engage in webcam chat

A WEBCAM CHAT CONFERENCE WAS PART of the opening day activities of the recently concluded ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Basic Education Congress held in Cebu City.

Taking a step further the Department of Education's challenge of upgrading ICT resources for teacher training and classroom use, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus went online and took part in the webcam chat conference with partner schools of Smart Communications Inc.

The participating schools were from Ilocos Norte (Dasen Norte National High School), Mountain Province (Sagada NHS), General Luna (Obsagan City NHS), Cebu (Dalaya and Technology Education Center), Davao (Mt. Diamond NHS, Santa Ana NHS, and Bell NHS), Zamboanga (Ayala NHS, Zamboanga City NHS) and Basilan (Basilan NHS).

They are all part of the Smart Schools Program, Smart's flagship community service initiative in the field of education.

Under the program, public high schools are given networked computer equipment and peripherals along with a one-year free Internet connection.

Teachers are also provided technology training and access to online resources through the Smart Schools' website (www.smartschools.ph).

Launched in December 2004, the Smart Schools program now counts 100 public high schools nationwide as partners. It is being implemented with the support of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, DepEd, and Microsoft Philippines Partners in Learning.

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CBCP scores gov't policy on migration

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE of the Philippines has expressed concern over the government's policy of promoting Filipinos' migration, which has resulted in "brain drain" and numerous other problems.

The CBCP's Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) said parents in its international consultation on the plight of overseas Filipino workers recommended that the government address the root causes of the exodus, which are poverty and unemployment.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of the 5th International Consultation Meeting on the Filipino Migrant Worldwide, the participants that included Filipino chaplains and pastoral workers from various countries noted that the Catholic Church does not encourage or promote migration.

CBCP president Angel Lagdameo, for his part, said the continued exodus of Filipino workers have given rise to numerous problems experienced by the overseas Filipino workers and their families.

"We are exporting not only household helpers and domestic helpers, but also contributing to the phenomenon of the brain drain, skilled workers, doctors, accountants, nurses, engineers, etc. This phenomenon is not without problems both for the migrants and the families they leave behind," Lagdameo said.

Lagdameo said the problems arising from the migration of Filipino workers have become part of the church's social concerns, but were being ignored by the government which is bent on sending more workers abroad for remittances.

He said the workers have been deprived of employment rights, abused, assaulted and sexually harassed. Some suffer from isolation, alienation and discrimination. The migration also gives rise to broken families and complex difficulties.

"These are far from being considered problems of the State which is simply keen on sending them as 'super dooper heroes' because they bring in the country's between $10to-12 billion dollars to help our local economy," he said.

ECMI head Bishop Precioso Cantillas said the government should ensure that the reasons behind the migration should be addressed so people would not be forced to go abroad because of a lack of options here.

"We want the government to do its homework in providing employment so that people will have the free option to stay home rather than go abroad and experience difficulties. The first thing to do is offer good alternatives in the country," Cantillas said in a press conference.

But since the migration is ongoing, the participants to the ECMI consultation recommended that the government be more vigilant in enforcing policies on the recruitment and deployment of OFWs and in implementing anti-trafficking and anti-illegal recruitment measures.

Lagdameo, however, said the global migration of Filipinos had a positive aspect in the sense that it allowed Christian Filipinos to spread their faith in other countries.

He said the OFWs represent a new form of lay missionaries.

Meanwhile, the participants of the ECMI-led consultation also recommended that the Church in the Philippines collaborate with government agencies to ensure values and faith formation are included in the pre-employment and pre-departure seminars of migrant workers.

Nicole's ma bares 'offer'

To next page A3

The mother was combative, but she later dissolved in tears during an breathing meeting with a group of reporters at a restaurant in Quezon City in the early hours yesterday.

Back on the stand

Nicole, her private lawyer Eva Lyn Ursua, and her therapist Dr. Jose Magdalo Lopez were present at the meeting.

The mother also said the lead prosecutor in the lawsuit case had wanted to put Nicole back on the stand, for her to tell the court that "the worst one, she's already tired, and (it has) her lawyer can't do anything about it."

Nicole completed her testimony in July.

The mother said she decided to go public only now—or about two months later—about Dr. Ian Santos' purported moves after another public prosecutor, Rubilen Quimbilan, came "unprepared" for her cross-examination last Monday of the perceived accused, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

"I observed the public prosecutors first ... and my daughter and I went daughter for many nights during the trial," she said, referring to Dr. Ian Santos.

Fertile imagination

As to the rape (now) supposed link to the outcome of the Hubilene case, Dr. Ian Santos' wife, Amelia and her sleep a few heartbeats, before saying: "I don't know which they got that; they have a fertile imagination."

"For the first place, I would be at my craziest to drain funding anything to do with the Hubilene case. It's not even at my level [in the Department of Justice].

"I may not be a darling of the press, but nobody can question my credibility in my 15 years in the service. I may be many-sp (distrustful, but I'm not a liar."

Dr. Ian Santos also all but confirmed the long-rumored rift between the public prosecution panel and Ursua, Nicole's private lawyer, whom the prosecutors described as a "milliont."

"We all know Ursua is behind all this," she said in Filipino.

She hinted at a full-blown showdown when she returns to work on Monday: "They will get it from me when I come back."

Dr. Ian Santos, who said she was in Bicol attending the wake for her dad's kumpadre, former Gov. Emilio Panlilio, also questioned the timing of the outburst from Nicole's mother.

She said it was tantamount to "blackmail" and a breach of the confidentiality of lawyer-client communications.

Dr. Ian Santos was not at the courtroom on Thursday when Nicole and her mother walked out of the Makati City Regional Court's Branch 159.

Last Thursday night, Nicole—with her mother, Ursua and Lopez—called a press conference in Quezon City to report that she had sent a letter to the DOJ asking the replacement of all her public prosecutors except Chief Valdez.

She said the letter had been ready the night before.

Lull in the hearing

Nicole's mother likewise claimed that:

• Dr. Ian Santos also approached Nicole's elder brother about the "settlement."

• Dr. Ian Santos mentioned the Hubilene case during a lull in the hearing where supposed prosecution witness Terence Sevilla—the driver of the van where the purported rape took place—did not show up. (That hearing was on July 17, or 10 days after Hubilene's arrest in Los Angeles.)

• Dr. Ian Santos told the families of the accused US Marines had agreed to a settlement and that Nicole's mother should say "what you want in writing."

• According to Dr. Ian Santos, Nicole and her siblings could also choose to withdraw from the public eye by going to the United States.

• The plan was to have Nicole telling the court the second set, preferably before the defense would begin its presentation of evidence.

Dr. Ian Santos pointed all these almost point by point, reiterating that she and Nicole's mother had exchanges about a possible settlement only because the latter had "asked for advice, and I was explaining the procedure."

"If they wanted to negotiate, then they have to put it in writing ... and Nicole has to take the stand again to say that she's desisting. What's saying with that? That's procedure," the prosecutor said.

'For the Filipinos'

Nicole's mother was running the family-owned canteen in the Army's Southern Command camp in Tacurong City when her daughter, while traveling with two siblings at the Subic Bay Freeport, was allegedly raped by Smith in the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

She has been a civilian supervisor for 15 years in the Philippine Navy where Nicole's father, now retired, was an officer. She has since remarried.

In yesterday's interview, while saying that it was up to Nicole to pursue the trial and that both she and her daughter were "still very much interested" in the case, she stressed out that winning it was "no longer just for us but for the Filipinos."

"When is our government now?" she cried. "We were given public prosecutors, but you wouldn't know where their loyalty is."

The 'cross': Here's why Nicole thinks prosecutor is sloppy

By Volt Contreras

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT TERESITA Rodriguez-Quimbilan's cross-examination of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith that so displeased the Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case?

At "Nicole" confided in reporters on Thursday she felt that "not enough questions were asked" of the US Marine who allegedly raped her.

No one, she said, after all the interest generated by the case in the last 10 months, Smith's cross-examination as conducted by public prosecutor Nelbil on Quimbilan was over in less than one hours.

Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon himself noted that Quimbilan's early line of questioning merely made Smith repeat or confirm certain statements he had made during his direct examination.

Nicole had to ask the lawyer at that point if he was really conducting a "cross."

But later, one question from Quimbilan called even longtime courtroom spectators for its bluntness.

"Did you come?" he asked the accused Marine, who replied that he did not "because there was no time" and the van suddenly came to a stop there.

Inconsistencies

Quimbilan tried to cover holes in inconsistencies between his court testimony and the statements he gave the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service two days after the alleged rape on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

For example, while Smith said he only drank one beer at the Subic Bay Freeport Club where he met Nicole, an NCIS report stated that he had up to five bottles of beer that night.

The report, Quimbilan noted, also stated that his co-accused "showed him on" as he watched the guy watch Nicole. Smith said the phrase was not his but that of the NCIS agent who had been interviewing him.

"That's a misquote," the official said, adding that as they were on to the van. He said there was "mutual drunken laughter, but nothing drawned at to [himself and Nicole]."

Smith claimed that the NCIS agent misquoted him several times in the report, but only after upon his lawyer's advice, he did not call the attention of the officer concerned because anyway he would soon testify on the "truth."

Additional questions

But a sign that not everyone in the prosecution was pleased with Quimbilan's performance surfaced after he announced that he was done with Smith.

Fredjo Umana, Nicole's private lawyer, rose to ask the judge if she would ask "additional questions."

Ursua told the Inquirer yesterday that Nicole had wanted her to ask the questions.

Smith

The defense panel panel strong objection, citing the rules of court.

Prosecutor Rodrigo, later for Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter, remarked that Ursua's move was a virtual "slap" on the public prosecutors because it meant that she found Quimbilan's cross-examination "deficient, if not defective."

"Ursua should have let her questioner" to Quimbilan, Rodrigo said.

After a recess, Judge Pozon eventually allowed the additional questions Ursua wanted asked, but still with Quimbilan as the cross-examiner.

'Not theatrical'

Reached by phone yesterday, Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Ex de los Santos maintained that she is satisfied with Quimbilan's handling of Smith.

"He's not theatrical," Ex los Santos contended, but said "we were able to prove that Smith was lying."

Smith claimed he was misquoted by the NCIS on portions not favorable to him. He said he did not even know about the NCIS report he was accused," Dr los Santos said, adding that it was hard to believe a US Marine would blatantly ignorant of the NCIS.

Rape trial postponed while DOJ resolves row

From page A1

with no objection posed by the defense, Pozon granted the request.

Ex Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez assailed Nicole for complaining about the performance of the prosecution panel, saying that as in the purported rape, she could again be "imagining things."

Gonzalez told the Inquirer that he was satisfied with the way the state prosecutors were handling the case.

"That statement is notable, she's imagining things. I hope she is not imagining [the rape] again. Who is she to judge the competence or incompetence of any prosecutor? We have given her all the support," he said.

"It's a very sweeping indictment against these prosecutors who are actively doing their best," he added.

From the start, Gonzalez had expressed disbelief at Nicole's claim of rape. At the same time, he even told reporters that the night withdraw her complaint against the four US Marines.

No official notice

Valdez told reporters that the issue had to be "thrashed out first" before the hearing could resume.

"In the first place, we haven't really if there really is a request for [our replacement] because we were not officially notified about that. We will speak with the secretary of justice," she said.

Bordal said the prosecution panel chair, Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Ex de los Santos, was to speak with Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño about the complainant's "new stipulations."

Valdez said the panel was to meet yesterday afternoon or Monday morning to settle the matter before the hearing resumes.

The defense was scheduled to call to the stand Dr. Renato Sanchez, an obstetrician-gynecologist who qualified as an expert witness during the Thursday hearing.

Sympathy

Defense lawyers expressed not only confidence that the prosecutors problem would not affect their case, but also sympathy for their counterparts.

"We agreed with their request [for postponement] because we understand their situation," said Jose Justiniano. "Why would [the complainant] doubt the [public prosecutors'] competence with so much?"

Justiniano denied that the prosecution was in collusion with the defense to lose the case. He said the complainant would not claim such a conspiracy if she were confident about winning the case and if the witnesses presented against the accused.

"[Public prosecutors] have a serious case, and they will not do that. What lends do [the complainant and her mother] have to say that the public prosecutors are siding with us when you've seen how hard we debate to the courtroom, how we cuss out witness to each other?" Justiniano said.

"Now, if their basis is our hand shakes, chats and laughter after the hearing, then they shouldn't base it on that. If lawyers fight it out in the courtroom, we are known outside the court," he said.

Hurt

The prosecutors said they learned of Nicole's complaint only through media reports.

The feeling of hurt was apparent on the faces and in their words.

"We are wondering why the [Nicole] didn't raise it [earlier] because, perhaps, we would have already laughed during the presentation [of evidence]," said Valdez, the only prosecutor whom Nicole wants to keep.

The state panel, along with Nicole's private lawyer, took 11 weeks to present some 23 witnesses on the stand to prove the complainant's claim of rape against Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter.

Nicole had herself taken the witness stand to testify that Smith forced himself on her at his three co-accused raped him on while on board a moving van.

On her, after every hearing [Nicole and her mother] approached us and thanked us ... how they are saying a different thing," Bordal said.

Asked if Nicole's allegations would affect the panel's commitment to the case, Valdez said: "No. We have been professional all this time and we will be, up to the end. We owe it to the people of the Philippines."

Bordal expressed the same resolve: "We will not abandon our duties as the prosecutors. In fact, we are representing the people, and not just one person."

Asked if she would stay if the DOJ decided to retain her and replaced the rest of the panel, Valdez said: "I work at the behest of the secretary of justice."

She also said Nicole apologized to her shortly after walking out of the courtroom on Thursday.

Evaluation

Gonzalez vowed to "defend my prosecutors" but said he would also penalize them for their mistakes.

He said he would study Nicole's letter to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño where she asked that her public prosecutors be replaced because she had lost confidence in them.

"I have not received her complaint. [When I do], I will evaluate it ... and if it is reasonable, I will grant it," he said.

But Gonzalez warned that the replacement of the state prosecutors would delay the hearings and affect the case-year timetable for the case's completion.

"The clock will continue to tick even if there is no hearing because the delay happened on account of the prosecution," he said, adding:

"But [Nicole] should understand that if there are no prosecutors, the same will drags."

"Private prosecutors cannot proceed with the trial without the public prosecutors because under the law, all criminal prosecutions should be under the direct control of [the latter]."

"I don't want any party drawing in this department, but we will accommodate any reasonable request."

Next week

Gonzalez said the new panel of prosecutors could be in place next week.

"I assure everyone that ... if I feel [the request] reasonable, we will not attract a panel. But there should be no delay because ... the case will resume so to run and any delay will be attributed in the party causing the delay. This kind of delay will no in favor of the Americans because the origin of the delay was the complainant," he said.

Palace: No plan to protest cancellation of Bolante's visa

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENIED IT HAD plans to protest the cancellation of the visa of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante by the United States when he is next to be detained.

"The Philippine government is not going to do anything in protest in his behalf because we understand that's the sovereign right of the host government to withdraw the visa it has issued," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

Ermita stressed that the Department of Foreign Affairs was not making any effort to file a protest with the US regarding Washington's cancellation of Bolante's visa.

"I talked with some DFA officials and they told me that it is the sovereign right of a host government to withdraw visas and therefore if the [US government officials] feel like doing it, they [don't] owe much any holder of a visa anything," Ermita told reporters in separate patch interviews.

He however admitted that he did not know for sure if indeed the US government cancelled the visa of Bolante, who had been tagged by the Senate as the architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"But if indeed it has been withdrawn then there's not much that can been done so Bolante will have to suffer the consequences of being in the US," Ermita said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was quoted early this week in Bulgaria, where he had been traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo, that the Palace planned to protest the cancellation by the US of Bolante's visa upon the advice of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Told about this, Ermita said he did "not know how accurate those quotations on Sec. Santiago and Secretary Romulo might be."

But Romulo yesterday clarified that no diplomatic protest would be filed over the US Embassy's cancellation of Bolante's visa.

In a statement emailed from London, Romulo said he expected the move expressed by Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations.

With a report from Nikko Dizon

AN INVITATION
Everyone is invited to a triduum of Masses in honor of St. Padre Pio, from September 13, Thursday, to September 15, Saturday, at 12:00 NN at the Chapel of Sts. Pedro Pio and Philomena, 5/F Goodwill Building, 241 Gen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel Air Village, Makati City.
The Celebrant for the triduum will be the famous healing priest, Fr. Emilio Bautin. The Novena to Padre Pio and Holy Rosary will be prayed before the Masses.
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THE PAETINE WATERS and white sands of this sandbar on Tubbataha Reef (above) will have added protection with the widening of the area covered by the marine park. It will also mean tougher jobs for the rangers' station (right) tasked with protecting the area. LYN RAMOS

Tubbataha park area now 3 times bigger

Front page ▸

TRNP as a no-take zone or an area that is off-limits to fishing, exploration, exploitation, mariculture but every and other forms of utilization to protect the rich marine life in Tubbataha and the Sulu Sea, they said.

"It's like a bank account. We have set aside a large portion [of our resources] for future use," Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) manager Angelique Songco told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday.

Located 92 nautical miles southeast of Puerto Princesa City, the Tubbataha reefs lie on the Cagayan Ridge, a line of extinct underwater volcanoes whose original summits rupture beyond the reefs 25 million years ago, making the Tubbataha reefs one of the Philippines' oldest ecosystems.

The TRNP's atmosphere, Tubbataha's four reef atolls—the North Atoll (4.46 km) and the Jardine Atoll (4.46 km) and the other reef spanning 2 km—the south in the middle of the Sulu Sea and are part of the marine eco-triangle dubbed as the center of marine biodiversity in the world.

The park alone, spanning an area of 20,000 ha, host 208 species of corals, representing 65 percent of all hard coral species in the country, along with 479 species of fish (reef, bathers), 40 species of sharks, rare species of soft corals, and nine species of marine mammals.

Diverse marine life

"The diversity of marine life found in Tubbataha is equal to or greater than any such reef of its size in the world," the Tubbataha website said.

The global conservation organization World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which has been doing research on Tubbataha for years, described it as "probably the most important marine protected area in the Sulu Sea."

It is a vital spawning and ground area for tuna and sharks that congregate in the Sulu Sea. Its rich resources flowing out to the coasts of Palawan and the Visayan Islands, according to Songco.

He said it was the World Heritage Committee that recommended the expansion of Tubbataha to boost its integrity as a premier marine protected area. The expansion of the marine park was a critical step to save the Philippines' reefs and allow the marine resources to be replenished.

"If the country's 27,000 km of coral reefs, only 5 percent were found to be in excellent condition and (now that) half were either critical or threatened, according to a WWF think tank report.

Cost of conservation

Songco said the expanded marine park would require around P30 million annually for recovery maintenance, more than double the P4.5-million average income generated by the TRNP from the collection of conservation fees (P1,000 per head) from tourists and divers who go to the TRNP.

With the expansion of the no-take park, our job just got a little bit harder, but because we believe it's necessary we have to do this," Songco said.

At least seven people—four from the Philippine Navy, one from the Philippine Coast Guard and two from the Tubbataha Management Office—are stationed at the park area every day to ensure that no unauthorized vessel enters the protected park.

The TRNP has recorded 13 apprehensions and has filed six cases against violators since last year, according to Songco.

Marine heritage

Overlooking, often with the use of binoculars and other explosives, posed a huge threat to the Tubbataha reefs in the 1980s, but persistent efforts by environmentalists and the Palawan provincial government led to its declaration as the Philippines' first national marine park.

The then Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park became a World Heritage Site on Dec. 11, 1993, making it one of only nine entirely marine World Heritage sites in the world.

The Philippines will submit Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 to the World Heritage Committee for boundary modification of the Tubbataha marine park.

The World Heritage List includes 830 properties with cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee finds to be of universal value.

The Philippines has four other properties on the World Heritage List: Baroque Churches, Rice Terraces in the Cordilleras, the Antique town of Vigan and the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.

Atong Ang loses fight against extradition

Front page ▸

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday confirmed that a US district court in Nevada has ordered Ang's extradition to stand trial for plunder. If Ang asks for reconsideration and is denied, he could be back on the country by late this month or in early October, he said.

He said a team from the National Bureau of Investigation would be sent to Nevada to fetch Ang.

According to Gonzalez, Ang's return would make it possible to reopen the case of Benitez, who disappeared after he refused to murder a videotape showing the then vice president lost his gambling to a Puerto Rican casino.

Ang, who fled the country in 2000 following the ouster of Estrada, had been detained in Las Vegas following his arrest by US forces in November 2005 on the basis of an extradition request by the Philippine government. He is the main contact with Estrada in the plunder case in which the ousted leader is accused of embezzling P130 million worth of kickbacks and tax evasion and of involving illegal gambling lords.

The government alleges that Ang helped Estrada set up a protection racket by "taxing," the illegal numbers game. The drug czar also alleges that he helped Estrada to avoid the P130 million.

Gonzalez said Ang has offered to become a state witness against Estrada in the plunder case, but he said it would be too late for that in the prosecution panel that already finalized with the presentation of evidence.

The justice secretary said he was interested in what Ang, a consultant of Pagcor at the time of Benitez's disappearance, has to say about the Benitez case.

"I have been given information about who were instrumental in the disappearance of Benitez, where his body was disposed of, and who burned his body," Gonzalez said.

Benitez, who was 31 at the time of his disappearance, is believed to have been behind the existence to the media of a videotape showing Estrada playing baccarat with Ang at the Heritage Hotel casino in 1995. The release of the tape in the middle of the 1998 presidential campaign was reportedly aimed at undermining Estrada's candidacy.

Benitez, who was one of the camera operators on duty when Estrada played at the Heritage Hotel on Sept. 15, 1998, disappeared in the early morning of Jan. 16, 1999, in the custody of the Inland Revenue Bureau where Pagcor also operates a casino. He was reported to have received death threats after the videotape was shown to media.

Fishing banned in Guimaras

Front page ▸

fines and company spokespersons).

The respondents were charged with violating the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Clean Air Act of 1999 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Tan told Petron officials had not received a copy of the complaint and told the Inquirer in phone interview that the complaint would provide a "good opportunity and legal venue to air our side."

Tangcoy assumed that the case would not affect the company's efforts to assist the affected residents and clean up the affected areas.

Main recipient

Bunye said the main recommendation of Coral Cay officials in Bacolod in their meeting in London was to declare a Gulang ban on Guimaras waters affected by the oil spill after the Solar 1 sank on Aug. 11 with its cargo of more than 2 million liters of Bunker Cut.

"They will try to assist but their principal recipient in the President was for the enforcement of strict fishing regulations to enforce the prohibition on fish resources in the area," Bunye said.

"According to Coral Cay, the best way for the environment to recover is to let nature take its course by banning fishing and transportation of the fish stock," said Bunye, who noted that the government had initially considered extending the waters with fingerlings.

Let nature reverse itself

"The President agreed because they obviously have quite vital objectives. So the President deferred to their recommendation to let nature replenish itself," said Bunye.

Coral Cay is a partner of the Philippine Reef & Rainforest project in Banjaran Island and has another marine conservation project on Turtle Bay in Puerto Princesa.

Bunye said Sik Arroyo immediately took action by sending several officials to reach Iloilo with Coral Cay's local representatives to map out the fishing ban plan, specifically its scope and duration.

Talks with the Prince

With the volunteer loss of their main means of livelihood, the government is likely to focus on providing alternative jobs and business prospects for residents.

Bunye said Coral Cay, a new government organization, was also prepared to provide its expertise not only for the rehabilitation of Guimaras residents, but also of a community in Southern Leyte, where a whole village of 1,000 people was swallowed up by a landslide last February.

Bunye said Coral Cay praised the Philippine government for allowing people in Guimaras to lend to be directly involved in the cleanup.

The Guimaras disaster also cropped up in Ms Arroyo's meeting with Prince Richard, who is widely known for his special interest in environment conservation.

Bunye said the Duke was very interested in Guimaras and how he could help in its cleanup and rehabilitation. He said the Duke would bring in a team of environment experts to Guimaras in February to help determine the best strategy in rehabilitating the affected waters.

Marvic Valcarcel, Mayor Oscarlito Gonzaga, whose town sues the busted for 10 to affected coastal residents, was among those who signed the complaint.

"We believe that our case is strong," Pinto said after the complaint was filed before the office of provincial prosecutor Leonardo Cabanes Jr.

Jordan Mayor Felipe Nava, Buenavista Mayor Samuel Gumarin and Sibunag Mayor Dulcinea Gaspe will file similar complaints next week, he said.

Destruction of coastline

In the complaint, Gonzaga cited the destruction or damage of 239 km of coastline, 15.9 sq km of coral reefs, 148 ha of mangroves and 642 hectares of seaweeds.

He said the oil sludge "destroyed our food supply chain and our fishing grounds for our fisherfolk" as well as the island's eco-tourist industry.

Deadly fumes

Gonzaga also said that the fumes coming from bunker fuel had led to the death of fishermen Rodolfo Bitoles and polluted the environment of the affected villages.

He cited a study showing a very high level of toxicity in the villages of Lapaz, Cabalagnan and Tando.

He said the corporation's violations also violated the Clean Water Act which forbids the "discharging, depositing, [and] causing to be deposited material of any kind directly or indirectly into the water ... which could cause water pollution..."

They also violated the Clean Air Act of 1999 by spewing "unknown and unclassified chemicals in the atmosphere," refering to the alleged spraying of chemicals on the shoreline of Barangay Guisacoan last month.

No claim for damages

Petron has denied it operated clandestinely but Gonzaga said the alleged spraying was done at night without the knowledge of the Coast Guard and local officials. Petron have confiscated their containers and fire sprayers.

The respondents were also accused of violating the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2004 for the "transport and dumping in bulk of wastes in areas other than centers of facilities prescribed by law."

The violations carry a punishment of from six to 12 years imprisonment or a fine of from P1,000 to P500,000, or both.

Heidee Mesa II, provincial legal officer, said there were no claims for damages involved in the complaint. With a report from Marvic F. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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▶ Location Map

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 23 No. 260

Ain't perfect

BUT IT WILL HAVE TO DO. IN FACT, IT HAS TO DO. The Philippine government must pay a deposit of P1,002,125,000 to finally take possession of the controversial Naia 3, the mothballed third terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport built by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), a Filipino-German consortium.

Three years and four months after the Supreme Court declared the five contracts awarded to Piatco and its predecessor null and void, the government will finally be able to lay claim to the terminal. The Arroyo administration has used the President's recent visit to Europe as a presidential and theatrical backdrop for the dramatic announcement, but to truth it has taken so long because delay was part of the administration's own legal strategy.

EDITORIAL

The Palace, for the longest time, felt disinclined to pay Piatco any compensation. But the Supreme Court thus ruled the contracts null and void also ruled, a year later, that Piatco must also be paid a fair amount for the costs of construction—under the fundamental principle of just compensation.

Only last January, the government's chief lawyer argued that heeding the Court's decision ordering an initial payment of P3 billion was detrimental to the public interest, because it would further delay the terminal's already delayed opening. Alfredo Benipayo, then the solicitor general, asked the Court to reconsider its ruling because the government might end up assuming Piatco's liabilities, complicating the schedule. "The republic faces the legal possibility of having to defend itself against the assumption of liability to creditors of Piatco whose combined claims against the latter far exceed the value of the property expropriated," Benipayo argued.

After the Court ruled with finality last February that despite the infirmity of the contracts the costs of construction incurred under those contracts must be fairly compensated, Malacañang finally saw the light.

Last May, the executive Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was surprisingly direct and to the point. Explaining the Palace decision on finally heed the Court and pay initial compensation, he put his finger on the palm of the issue. "What is important is to have control, that was the cornerstone [among Palace officials]," he said.

He also said: "So if you make that initial payment, we assume control [of the terminal]."

Control, actual physical possession, immediately translates the country's position in any international arbitration case. It allows the government to eliminate the actual cost of the terminal construction with greater precision. Not least, it allows the government to arrest the deterioration of the terminal, and to prepare it for use at the soonest possible time.

Use, at least repairing, is a principal consideration. The entire controversy over Piatco and Naia 3 must be ultimately resolved in the public's favor. That means putting the terminal to good use, while—always—upholding the law.

We can understand the concerns raised by those who oppose even the initial payment to the consortium, especially on legal grounds. But the Supreme Court rulings rejected as this course of action is in fact according to the law's highest standards.

The two terminals at the Naia, the country's main international gateway, are already heavily congested; indeed, even if the third terminal had opened for business on schedule, congestion would still have been a problem. Today, the rising volume of air traffic and stricter security measures have placed the first two terminals' capacities under serious strain. In other words, we needed to open Naia 3 yesterday.

But we also need to open it with scrupulous regard for the law. Let us not delude ourselves: The court decision finding the 1997 Concession Agreement, the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement and the Supplemental "null and void" was not received well in the international community. It was, nevertheless, the right judgment call. All the more reason, then, to follow the law faithfully: Pay just compensation. Take possession. And claim control.

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Assistant Secretary LORNA KALAW TAN

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. 5th and 6th Floors, Media Nine Building, Muralla corner Recoletos Streets, Intramuros, Manila
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Favored dual citizens

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

AS AN OVERSEAS VOTER, I CAN NO LONGER dissent from the decision of the Supreme Court as I often did when I was still a member of that body for in my private capacity, I am still on pins for impactful objection to some of its rulings if I feel they violate the Constitution we all have the duty to support and defend.

One case I have in mind is Lodis Nicolas Lewis v. Commission on Elections, GR No. 161779, Aug. 4, 2006, which held that dual citizens are not required to renounce the continuous qualification prescribed in Art. V, Sec. 1 of the Constitution for the exercise of suffrage in this country. The said provision states in full:

"Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed for the exercise of suffrage."

In upholding the petitioner's claim to be entitled to an absentee vote because of his status as a dual citizen, the Court declared that "there is no provision in the dual citizenship law... RA 9225...requiring 'dual' to actually establish residence and physically stay in the Philippines first before they can exercise their right to vote."

True, but that requirement is found in Art. V, Sec. 1, which does not exempt dual citizens as a special privileged class.

The purpose of the residence requirement is to ensure that the voter will be familiar with the conditions of the country, and specifically of the place where he proposes to vote, so he can intelligently exercise his right to participate in the solution of their problems and the promotion of their welfare.

Significantly, mere residence is not enough; it must be possessed for the required periods of time intended to make the voter feel that he is part of the concern and the place where he is exercising his suffrage. A temporary sojourner, or, worse, a complete stranger, is not allowed by the Constitution to vote in a place where he has no deep-rooted attachment or any interest in its welfare.

Even a full Filipino casting his total allegiance to the Philippines alone is not allowed to vote here if he has not resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place where he proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. Yet, according to the Supreme Court, the dual citizen who—forfeits his allegiance between the Philippines and a foreign state is allowed to vote here without complying with these requirements.

I am aware of the exceptions to the rule in favor of our citizens on official mission abroad or students taking post-graduate studies and to our overseers and even our hundreds of thousands of overseas workers. All of them retain their residence in our country although not physically present here. They are absentee voters who are allowed to vote in Philippine elections because they have complied with the above-stated residential requirements.

But the privilege should not apply to dual citizens who, having expressly renounced Philippine citizenship and transferred residence to their adopted country, are now gratuitously and illegally welcomed back by our foreign government, courtesy of our Supreme Court.

Their experience of our country carried with it their loss of residence here, which cannot be restored extraordinarily—even the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 does not so provide.

It is evident in the case of those who became dual citizens jure sanguinis and jure soli, especially those who have never even been to the Philippines as their second country. Even the minor children of Filipino nationals abroad who have also grown up in their parents' adopted country and have never set foot in the Philippines will eventually qualify under the Lewis decision.

What continues in the Philippines can throw divergent claims if they have not stayed and acquired a base in the first place? Let there still reign more rights than full Filipinos who have lived in the Philippines all their lives but have not complied with the six-month residence in the place where they intend to vote.

The absentee Voting Law (RA 9189) applies only to those Filipino citizens who, although sojourned abroad, have not lost or relinquished their residence in the Philippines. It should not apply to dual citizens who never sustained in other countries or were born into and transformed to acquired their new citizenship abroad. The Dual Citizenship Law (RA 9225) was passed only seven months later.

The decision makes much of Sec. 2 of Article V which says that "the Congress shall provide... a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad." That section applies to the qualified Filipinos mentioned above, not to the dual-citizens who have not yet acquired the residence requirement in Sec. 1 of the same article.

Considering the purpose of the residence requirement for suffrage as prescribed by the Constitution, it is clear that it should be applied strictly and fairly, without discrimination or preference.

Barred from studying in the United States

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD SAMANTHA CAMILLE Amichai and her 14-year-old brother Stephen Cedric are very bright children, who would be considered assets anywhere. Their material circumstances are also favorable, their father wanting the best education for them, enrolled them in two private Catholic schools in their home state of Washington in the United States. Tuition was not cheap—more than $10,000 a year for both, paid in advance (for foreign students)—but the Del Pradoes were more than willing to pay because, as Lorraine explained in a letter (from which I got my information) to US Ambassador Kristie Kenney: "We strongly believe that their high school experiences will have a transformational impact on their future intellectual habits and self confidence and will prepare to contribute toward the progress of the Philippines."

The children were issued I-20 forms (proof of admission) by the US schools, the Del Pradoes were asked to produce proof of financial capacity to support the children during their study, and of course the children (or parents) also submitted documentation to show their financial ties with or family ties to the Philippines (except for Lorraine, the entire family—parents, grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts—live in the Philippines).

But when Samantha and Stephen went to the US Embassy for their interview, accompanied by their mother, the consular official in Window 7 could not see enough "ties" to pull the children back home after their studies. He didn't think they would return. He denied them their visas.

They tried again one month later, accompanied this time by both mother and father, and presumably with more proof of financial capability to support the children on the part of the Del Pradoes, of financial assets in the Philippines, of the fact that all their assets are located in the Philippines, and therefore constituted the strongest possible reasons for returning. But they were denied visas again, for the same reason: no "TIES."

The letter of Lorraine, who is a consultant III citizen, to Ambassador Kenny complains about the arrogance and disrespect shown by the consular official (particularly traumatic to the children seeing their parents treated thus so), notes that such behavior seems to be more the rule than the exception, points out that the fee for a visa application at $100 is more than the monthly income of the "average" Filipino, and asks a very logical question: If all the documents that are required to support a visa application are not considered, and even not scrutinized by the consular official, why ask for them in the first place?

Having heard of so many horror stories about the arbitrary and arrogant behavior of many US consular officials (that they do not even contemplate is supposed to protect them from retaliation), I sent this e-mail (sacred as it contains private details) to Ambassador Kenny: "Is there anything you can do to stop this kind of behavior? Or is it going to be business as usual?"

My second reason: It is high time those consular officials are reminded that Filipinos in the United States do not comprise a potential social or economic burden to that country. On the contrary, they have proven themselves to be an uplifting force. Look at their profile (based on 2000 US Census as presented in a Web Page document entitled, "Filipino Americans: the Best-Kept Secret," by Mark Sy):

"If Asian families have a median income of $58,323, almost 40 percent more than the US average of $41,994. Poverty incidence among Filipino families is 6.8 percent, vs. 11.3 percent for the US. Their average age is 31.7 years, vs. the US average of 35.4 years. They are not too inhibited to be entrepreneurial. They are more highly educated—42 percent with college degree, vs 24 percent for the US. Also, 66 percent own their own homes, vs. 58 percent for the US. Their labor force participation rate is 75 percent, vs the national average of 65 percent. Twenty-five percent of households have more than three income earners, vs. 11 percent for the US.

You don't hear of a Filipino mafia/mafia, do you not hear of Parliament or Senate or Business ones. In fact, 98 Americans are called the Invisible Minority, for their buying power is equal to that of the Filipinos.

Welcoming Filipinos, and shouting them out, would better serve the interest of the United States.

GMA in Hawaii for RP workers' centenary

HONOLULU—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO will fly to Honolulu to join the commemoration of the arrival here of 21 Filipino sugar plantation workers aboard the U.S. ship, Rose this 13 Filipino migrants (nationalities, known as subjects and nicely as the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association (HSPA) in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 1906 to work in the sugar plantations of Hawaii. They are the first batch of the 120,000 Filipinos who would migrate to Hawaii from 1906 to 1929 to work in the sugar plantations.

During her visit, the State of Hawaii and the Filipino community especially honor the legacy of these subjects in a year-long observance involving the 100th US visit and the Philippines. GMA is expected to be invited to her cheering ceremonies this December, but since she'll be leaving the Asian Summit of Leaders in Cebu at that time, her trip to Honolulu was scheduled after her trip to Europe and Asia. The US will attend a summit of world leaders here. She will unveil the Bakada Statue at the Filipino Community Center and attend the dedication of the marker to the Filipino and American soldiers who died in the Battle of Bataan and the Centenary of the Pacific. She will meet with Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann as well as the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board and receive a briefing on security situation in the Asia Pacific here. She will attend

Inaction on maritime treaties

THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER-mience of the annual "Dean Ujoh World" this September has been made more significant with the recent oil spill tragedy that hit the marine ecosystem of the Visayan sea, especially the island province of Guimaras.

While President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared a state of national calamity in the area, similar disasters may be presumed in the future and the Philippines would be more prepared in addressing marine crises if we up available international assistance.

There are at least 30 international maritime conventions and treaties agreed upon by the community of nations. Some of these have been in existence since the '60s and the '70s. Unfortunately, the Senate has not ratified any of these, which could help government access international financial and legal assistance.

The departments of foreign affairs, environment and natural resources, and transportation and communications must call on the Senate to ratify these maritime conventions and treaties.

It is unfortunate that in an archipelago like the Philippines, where coastline is longer than those of superpowers like the United States, we continue to have a land-locked vision, insensitive to the opportunities offered by the almost limitless ocean resources, and unaware of the dangers and vulnerabilities of having such a coastline.

The ratification of these conventions will also help develop shipping, as our main transportation for domestic passengers and cargo; new fishing and tourism jobs under industries and means of livelihood for our rural poor; persons and peoples with disparate threats and dangers of sea pollution, militants and kidnapping, and develop the Philippines as the world's top provider of merchant marine for international maritime services.

Once ratified, the concerned government departments should prepare the implementing rules and regulations and quickly create an inter-agency task force that would maximize the benefits that could be derived from these international treaties and put up a system that would execute the safety of our largest natural resource—our seas, which are known for maximum biodiversity unequalled in the entire Earth.

—SENATOR FRANCE CASTRO
Former senator and co-drafter of the Senate version of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998; co-founder of the Green Convergence for Safe Food, Water and Environment; and chair of the Committee on Ecology, Environment and Natural Resources in the 13th Congress of the Philippines

Failed democracy: Who's to blame?

AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION congressmen killed the 2006 impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, they said the opposition has "no one else to blame but themselves." The statement may be said of those part of the Left in the push for Charter change, specifically the shift to the parliamentary system. They say the need for change because the presidential system is not working in our country today.

I honestly am troubled in the Philippines—when the civilian-elected presidency lost of governments put chance to maximize our issues, such as the Marcos ill-gotten wealth and the legitimacy of the two Edsa revolutions.

However, many events have shown that democracy is failing the nation today. Just name them: a) the climate in the political realm and socio-economic scenario pushing the legitimacy of the MTOP administration; the Hello Garci tapes; the P728-million fertilizer scam and the killing of leftists and journalists, among others), because the government is doing everything to its power to block and prevent our right to information (e.g., the killing of the impeachment complaint, by adopting anti-democratic procedures in party politics and by making Lacierda Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017, by its silence on Balanon's detention in the United States).

What is democracy ineffective in our country lately? The administration lawmakers and Charter change advocates should themselves ask: were the fundamental questions as their fight to usurp their pay and terms of power thereof and was it democracy still working in our country now, is it because GMA and her allies are making sure it aren't; if democracy is failing our people now, GMA and her allies have no one else to blame but themselves.

—RENE VAN
sharis_rene@yahoo.com

Imperialism has become outmoded

WE CAN ACCEPT PITY UTTERED by President George W. Bush. Despite his struggle, Osama bin Laden, his network, remains at large five years after 9/11. Three years after invading Iraq, the insurgency continues to rage, with Americans and British hostages watching the 2,000 mark, and a number of innocent Iraqi civilians dying violently every day.

In the meantime, Bush's popularity in the United States has slipped into negative, abroad it is worse. President Lyndon Johnson's, best during the Vietnam war—when the United States might be perceived as a "global, helpless giant"—is becoming a reality.

It's all because America's leaders refuse to face the truth: that imperialism has become outmoded. After World War II, the colonial system began succumbing as the colonies obtained their freedom—some by force, others by chance of history. This was a time when the colonial powers were weakened by a war among themselves for a redistribution of colonies. The British Empire shrank with the loss of its jewel, India. Then it lost Malaysia and Singapore as well.

The US government "granted" the Philippines—conquered after a 10-year war (1899-1935) to obtain a million Filipinos dead—its independence in 1946. But in granting the Philippines its "independence," the United States made sure that its freedom was limited by lopsided economic and military treaties. The Philippines became a model of neo-colonialism—a system wherein nominally independent states are dominated by foreign powers through the control of their natural resources and their foreign and economic policies. That's why the Philippines remains poor.

The United States launched its war on Iraq to make its oil resources, The United Kingdom, which used to dominate the Middle East, is now acting as America's camp follower to share in its spoils. Israel was sponsored by the United Kingdom and the United States to keep the Middle East perpetually divided. Following the Roman maxim: "Divide and Conquer." This is the "clash of civilizations" or a "religious war." This is the old imperialist war of conquest waged by the strong nations against the weak. Pure, unruly imperialism has become commodity.

—MANUEL S. LABARO,
mlabaro@yahoo.com

An adventure story that bombed

ALLOW ME TO COMMENT ON Neal Gray's Sept. 6 column ("The real culprit behind Sen. Dole observed"), particularly on his claim that a self-proclaimed anti-terror expert had exposed security inefficiencies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

First off, Augusto Aquinaldo dressed would arouse that the security at the NAIA is one of the tightest in the world, as evidenced by the extraordinary checks on bag gage and elsewhere, sometimes from the air of the terror fear in the face of the ever-heightening threat of terrorism, the airport security measures seen in the NAIA are even moderate.

We should also note that Domestic Airport Manila Domestic has said that no real explosives were carried by the agent for taking aboard a plane bound for Davao from Manila.

News reports say that incidentally, may not a real clap like C-4 explosive, was carried by the agent; therefore, it could not have been detected by the metal-sniffing dogs at the NAIA. Had the agent carried real C-4, then he would have surely been caught as even the latest metal-sensing detector/sniffing dogs would have detected its presence in the luggage.

If the agent claimed that he brought aboard real C-4, then it may just be a case of someone misinforming a story for the purpose of bragging.

—ATTY. ERNESTO S. HERRERA,
234 Sampaloc St.,
Cembo, Makati City

Trash palliatives to cure ills in public school system

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT the low and decadent quality of public education in our society. Newly appointed Education Secretary Jesli Lapus doesn't have to resort to ineffective, more-cosmetic remedies to address the existing problem—like the enactment of the national cleanliness week and other palliatives that are already passé. The obvious problems that the Department of Education refuses to resolve are the following:

1. Public schools, especially high schools, do not provide their students with textbooks for free that the students might lose the books or get them torn, and the teachers would have to pay for the books.

2. Instead of giving textbook-based assignments, teachers, upon the instruction of their principals, ask their students to join "theme projects" like bringing recycled tickets for stage plays, packed books, etc. Teachers also force the students to buy unnecessary quality reading materials, like workbooks, allowing the former to solicit commissions from these school suppliers.

3. Schools collect illegal fees (e.g., for parents vouchers/assessments) whose officers are seemingly ineffective here no children in the local schools. Most of the PTA officers remain as officers even long after their children have graduated from the schools.

Corruption even in public schools is rampant. Let us preserve more to provide a quality budget for social PTAs, for the kinds—which in some cases and cases run up to millions of pesos—are used for other purposes, like parties, in line the pockets of heavy pay officials.

If public school officials want to deal with the problem decently they should re-adopt the Thomasian approach (pioneered by the Americans in the early 1900s) by which students were made to read the textbooks and do assignments based on those books.

Where are the books which the national government buys every year? Perhaps, it is time for the Ombudsman to investigate all the schools and subject them to proper audit.

—MANUELA VILLA,
1040 Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

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Writers of letters to the editor are required to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

DOH it na! "4-S KONTRA DENGUE"

42% less DENGUE cases this year compared to the same period last year.

Dengue Cases & Deaths by Region Philippines, as of September 9, 2006

Region	Cases			Deaths	
	2006	2005	%Change	2006	2005
I	870	948	-8.2	11	6
II	151	688	-78.1	4	9
CAR	1,136	718	58.2	1	6
III	1,996	6,019	-51.3	19	27
IV-A	913	858	45.7	17	5
IV-B	16	18	-11.1	0	0
NCR	4,893	3,402	43.8	53	40
V	98	346	-71.7	1	8
VI	950	1,198	-20.7	9	1
VII	1,786	1,994	-10.4	42	65
VIII	70	1,046	-93.3	6	4
IX	342	2,197	-84.4	8	11
X	871	3,398	-83.2	7	77
XI	784	1,758	-55.8	8	26
XII	319	1,884	-83.1	9	34
ARMM	89	321	-72.3	2	3
CARAGA	151	1,197	-87.4	0	16
TOTAL	14,915	25,682	-41.9	188	316

The **4-S** Against Dengue

- **S**earch and Destroy breeding places of dengue-causing mosquitoes such as old tires, coconut husks, roof gutters, discarded bottles, flower vases and other containers that can hold clean stagnant water;
- **S**elf protection Measures such as wearing of long-sleeve shirts and long pants and using mosquito repellents are a must during day time;
- **S**eek Early Consultation when early signs such as fever and rashes set in; and
- **S**ay No to Indiscriminate Fogging except for dengue outbreak.

Dengue Express Lane

For faster case management and treatment, all DOH-run hospitals all over the country now have Dengue Express Lanes where families and relatives can bring family members suspected to have dengue.

"We have to be vigilant in our guard against dengue. We cannot afford to be complacent and just sit down, especially not with the fact that most lives it claims are the hope of our future: our children."

Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

"Search and destroy is the only way to beat dengue and we can only win this battle if we fight it together. Let us keep our environment healthy and dengue-free."

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail:ivoy_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Korner Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Fil-German kids lament loss of Nagarao

By Hazel P. Villa
Nagarao Island, Guimaras

THERE IS NO BETTER PLAYGROUND THAN an island of white sand ringed with corals, except if there's a finer classroom than a mangrove forest for priceless lessons on ecology.

Filipino-German brothers Andreas, Marcus and Marvin had at first the reservations of children when they took the 15-minute motorboat ride from Sapa Wharf in Buenguy Subang, Siburan in Nagarao Island owned and managed by their parents Martin and Helen Steinmetz.

But upon disembarking on the island's pier barely Subang, the brothers were taken aback momentarily by the sight of three volunteers hauling oil-soaked debris on a small sweeper a few meters away from the white coralline beach.

Martin, the youngest brother at 12 years old, only had bare feelings when he said in Hiligaynon, "Nalibot ako (I was shocked)."

Martin liked resting under caught off the waters of Nagarao, which is a marine reserve, while Andreas, 14, was more partial to the beachfront.

Marcus, 17, loved the natural forest of Nagarao and the massage around White Monkey Rock, a rock formation beside Nagarao surrounded by coral gardens.

"When I was 8, I would swim and snorkel near the mangroves at high tide and pick shells of different colors. Some shells we boiled and we ate and anything sharp to pull out the meat," said Marcus.

The Steinmetz couple, now estranged, bought the island in 1986.

Andreas and Marcus immediately stocked parts of the 10-hectare island, which their mother said in telephone calls was smeared with bunker fuel oil from the tanker MT Solar 1 that ran aground off southern Guimaras last Aug. 11.

Visitor

It was Aug. 20 and the boys were absent from school so they could join their mom to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President was on her second visit to Guimaras Island and was scheduled to drop in a neighboring resort just to prove that Guimaras was still a place to visit despite the oil slick.

Andreas and Marvin were busy with schooling and boarding house in Jaro, Iloilo City, where they were found most of the time as their Nagarao resort managed the island.

The President's visit was also the first date for the Steinmetz brothers to see their island-playground after the oil slick.

Until they saw it when the oil slick first crept on its beach on Aug. 20, they would have been more upbeat.

"We had been warned earlier that the oil slick would come our way because of the current, but then we saw and smelled the oil," said Helen as she recounted the first time she encountered the oil on the shores of Nagarao.

Father Quincy Melo, Sokorro Ked and her 19-year-old son Richard from Dumaguete, Germany were set to enjoy their vacation but had not yet set foot on the island when worked from Sept. 1 to 13, after which Petron said they will be putting more spill booms around Nagarao.

"I asked Petron to refund me for my expenses prior to Petron's help. That's about P13,000 but Helen said his losses will still have to meet about three things. Up to now, nothing has come out of my request," said Helen.

She said she won't file for legal action against Petron if they just bear for her previous cleanup expenses, continued to rehabilitate Nagarao and financially made up for revenue losses.

The Boogs said she was also banking on the P300-million claims from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund currently in Guimaras to assist affected Guimaras residents and resort owners on how to go about the claims.

Helen's estranged husband Martin had earlier threatened to file a P30-million damage suit against oil refiner Petron Corp. and Bunkfuel Maritime Development Corp., owners of the tanker MT Solar 1. Martin, 66, said he had incurred P300 million over the past 16 years to preserve the corals and marine life around Nagarao and to beautify the island.

Helen complained that her estranged husband now living in Bandiagan, Negros Occidental, did not consult her about the damage suit and was "bypassed" even in terms of the fact that ownership of the island is in her name.

The Steinmetz boys have accepted the fact that it may have to take a long time to bring back their island playground to its former pristine beauty.

"I have no idea how to clean all of that oil. Maybe just clean the rocks but it's a waste of time because some of the oil might just come back," said Marcus.

DIG VIEW of the pier of Nagarao in the early morning as low tide. PHOTOS BY HAZEL P. VILLA

RESORT owner Helen Steinmetz laments the oil-smeared waters shore of Nagarao.

Retreat

Helen said guests cancelled their bookings done months before when they heard of the MT Solar 1 sinking and the subsequent news about the spread of the oil slick.

A group of 10 Iranians already gave their down payment for an overnight stay for Aug. 21 and six Aug. 30, a group of 30 people from Manila was supposed to stay for two nights in the island resort's 16 cottages.

"Even Mercedites in Manila, the foreigners, including a couple who owns a house here, would come here and some stay for as long as three months. All of them are gone now," said Helen, sighing.

A day's stay in Nagarao would cost $50 (about P2,852) for a foreign tourist.

The fees include three meals and accommodation, but excludes transportation expenses.

While waiting for the President on Aug. 20, Steinmetz said she had a conversation with Petron officials who said they will be "very cooperative" in helping Nagarao recover.

On Aug. 21, Melvin Hallowit, a team leader of Petron for coastal cleanups came to Nagarao and said the island resort could hire 15 persons for the cleanup when Petron will pay P300 a day.

The hired persons were either staff of the resort or residents of the island.

ANDREAS (left) checks out the bunker fuel oil that mixed with the coralline sand of Nagarao Island Resort.

Across the NATION

STL new milking cow after 'jueteng'

Cops, local execs want more from gov't lottery

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—JUETENG LORDS, some of whom got licenses to operate the government-run small town lottery (STL), have begun bracing for negotiations as police and local officials demanded bigger shares from the proceeds of STL, an Inquirer source said on Friday.

The sources, an STL license holder in Luzon, said top officials of the Philippine National Police and the Department of the Interior and Local Government met last week with members of the franchise holders, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to propose a plan to establish an STL task force.

"The PNP and DILG want to control that task force. While they want bigger shares on top of the 5 percent [that is allowed by law], they're making their demands without yet mapping jueteng operations that overpose with STL," said the source.

He added we want to see lessons to expect on the establishment operations of STL and jueteng, a racket that lets police informants disappear.

The source's statements indicated that police and local officials were divided in their positions.

One camp, he said, wanted to get grease money from both the state-run game and illegal numbers game. Another camp was seeking to contend with bigger STL shares to compensate for lost shares in jueteng.

Benefits

The second position is seen as beneficial to the Arroyo administration because it could then claim success in eradicating jueteng, he said.

The source said jueteng operators had positive discussions with STL. This, he said, was why jueteng has not resumed on a full-scale like during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

What could now, according to him, are illegal operations, run by cabo (jueteng area managers) outside the control of their bosses' financiers.

Police sources have claimed otherwise, saying jueteng financiers who are now running STL have been cheating the government in two ways, by not fully remitting the bets and using STL as cover for jueteng.

According to the industry source, the PNP and DILG were putting the wrap for the negotiations by managing each jueteng lord.

Ramon Jesus Quiñones, STL project director of the PCSO, declined to answer if the meeting really took place.

Quiñones said the meeting, if one should be obtained from a top PCSO official. The executive only met in his office when the lottery rolled.

Director General Oscar Calderon, PNP chief, confirmed that the PNP and DILG were "working with the PCSO to be able to put a stop to the use of STL as a cover for jueteng."

Grease money

Calderon, in a phone interview, said he was aware that not all STL collections were remitted to exchequer of PCSO's coffers.

He also denied that police and local officials have demanded grease money from STL operators.

"What we want to see is that the PNP and the local governments get their legal shares and for the PCSO to get the right amount of revenues for charities," he said.

DUMPING GROUND
A worker loads bags of ash into a barge docked at Nueva Valencia in Guimaras. Nueva Valencia was the town hardest hit by the oil spill from a Petrovo-owned tanker that was carrying at least 2 million liters of oil.

MILF says it's an ally vs terror

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) claimed it is now allied with the United States in the global war against terror.

Hal Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the guerrillas are in direct contact with US officials as far as the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is concerned.

"We are directly talking to them. The first US operation that we allowed happened in Lanao del Sur. We allowed US spy planes to fly over our territories," Kabalu said.

He said that since US military helicopters conducted reconnaissance flights over Mount Cararao, where 36 militants were allegedly training.

The MILF also maintains a camp in the area.

Kabalu said that from July to September 2005, the MILF also gave access to US military officials during the military's counteroffensive campaign in Maguindanao.

The MILF has been repeatedly accused of soliciting terrorists.

But Kabalu said the fact that it has cooperated with the counterterror campaign disproved the allegations.

He said as a revolutionary group, the MILF does not adhere to terrorism to further its objectives, which is to protect the rights of the Moro people.

The MILF has agreed to negotiate for a settlement in the decades-old Moro rebellion.

But recent talks hit a snag on the issue of ancestral domain. Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

ROUNDUP

Inmate rearrested

KORONADAL CITY—One of the two inmates who bolted the heavily guarded South Cotabato provincial jail on Monday has been recaptured, provincial jail warden Ronnie Pillot said guards arrested Nilo Cuasay an hour after he and Joanard Garbong ended the jail's two-hour siege. Pillot meanwhile denied that the jail guards' unlucky end the other guards to capture Garbong, in South Cotabato. The provincial government will start releasing the cash livelihood assistance to parishes and parishioners.
Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Bomb for lawyer

COTABATO CITY—A bomb exploded less past midnight here Sunday night but no one was hurt. City police chief Senior Supt. Pompeyo Aduja said the explosive device went off seconds after lawyer Frances Cynthia Suazo-Sayadi's vehicle passed at about 11:20 p.m. Sayadi, solicitor general of the Autonomous Regional Muslim Mindanao, said she believed she was the target of the bomb attack but could not say who was behind it. "My vehicle was about 10 meters away from the explosion," she told reporters. Aduja said Army bomb experts who uncovered another explosive device near the blast scene.
Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Test in Batangas seal

BAMBANG CITY—The provincial board unanimously approved on Thursday a resolution requesting the provincial government to close Taal Volcano and Taal Lake as a component of the Batangas province's seal. Board Member Rommel de Leyola, framer of the resolution, also urged the provincial government to close Taal Volcano and lake of the center of the seal—now constituting of a centuria, rolling ship and horse—to better promote the volcano and the province worldwide.
Marlon Ambonde, contrib. Inquirer Southern Luzon

Ex-Legazpi mayor dies

LEGAZPI CITY—Former Legazpi City mayor Imelda Roces, who served from 1904 to 2001, died of a heart attack at around 6:30 p.m., Sept. 7. She underwent the rotation of a speech during the National Crime Prevention Week celebration at the Philippine Police Commission camp's office in Makati City. Napoleon dePablo said she was declared dead on arrival at the Makati Medical Center. Roces, 65, a mother of five, was the vice chair and executive officer of Napoleon since 2004.
Zahrain Agunia, Inquirer Southern Luzon

3 dead in Naga fire

NAGA CITY—Three persons were killed when fire broke out at 12:45 a.m. Sunday in the house of Inquirer Southern Luzon correspondent Jun Nagrampa in this city. Nagrampa identified the dead as Kristina Corazon, 28, Simeon Anthony, 11, and Ellen Sahlan Rebollo Aden, sons of the lawyer. The city fire department has yet to determine the source of the fire.
Jose Cresencio Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Suspected rob slain

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A suspected New People's Army (NPA) was killed in a clash between Army troops and rebels in Barangay Ilayang Iyam in Candelia, this region Tuesday. The Southern Luzon Command said soldiers clashed with the NPA rebels in Barangay Ilayang Iyam around 9:30 a.m. with one unidentified man killed. Also on Tuesday, in Pio Duran town, Albay, suspected NPA assassins killed Barangay Tanalgay Captain Antonio Nuñez on suspicion of being a military informer, said Lt. Col. Wenceslao Pasaylo.
Delon C. Mabilangan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Dengue season keeps DOH busy with campaign

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has strengthened its campaign against dengue fever with almost two thousand cases and four deaths record by the mosquito-borne disease already recorded in the Cordillera, Laguna and in Eastern Visayas since January.

In the Cordillera, the number of dengue cases from January to September has increased to 1,189 from the 733 cases that were reported over the same period last year with Ifugao City accounting for 38 percent of the cases, the DOH in the Cordillera said.

Health officials in Laguna reported 588 dengue cases from January to August, with three reported deaths due to the deadly virus transmitted by the day-biting mosquito Aedes aegypti.

The DOH in Eastern Visayas said it recorded 148 cases over the last eight months, with Leyte province having the highest number of cases at 98.

Latest cases

In Batanes, dengue claimed the life of a girl from Itbayat City on Thursday, Angelica Raga, 8, was first taken to the Batanes General Hospital in Basco after being referred from Itbayat. She was transferred to the Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City, where she died.

Ifugao City has the highest number of cases with 670 or 56 percent of the total cases while Kalinga has recorded only 300.

Brenda Segundo, an entomologist of the DOH Cordillera, however, said that despite the increase in the number of cases in Ifugao, there has been no declaration of an outbreak, as this year's number of cases has not exceeded the normal expected range set by the DOH.

"This is a global trend where the number of dengue cases reaches their peak in a cycle of three to four years. This is the cyclical nature of the disease. This could be due to the manipulation of the population by the disease where their immune system decreases in an environment favorable to the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes," she said.

Breeding sites

He said the cycle could be broken if people would sustain activities that would destroy the mosquito's breeding sites.

DOH records showed that the patients' ages ranged from one to infants to 69 years.

In Cagayan, officials of 29 village councils in Tuguegarao City have requested for the city council to declare a state of calamity in the city due to the rising cases of dengue infection.

The village officials said they needed to assess the city's calamity funds to determine if they could buy medicines and medical equipment to destroy the breeding grounds of dengue-carrying mosquito.

Reports from the DOH in Cagayan Valley said at least 13 people had died in the region due to dengue fever from January to September.

In Laguna, provincial health doctors Dr. Alfonso Lagos revealed that most of the CHDs reported no dengue cases were recorded in its three densely populated cities of San Pablo City (1,122 cases), Calamba (951) and Sta. Rosa City (295). The rest of the cases were from the province's 28 towns, with the three reported deaths coming from Pila, Mabitac and Magdalena towns.

Cimarbenza

Lagos said they expected a significant reduction in the number of dengue victims as the province compared to last years' total of 3,105 cases because of their massive campaign to contain thing the spread of the disease.

Lagos asked household residents to cooperate by maximizing disinfectants in their surroundings as there would be no disposal service which could be breeding places of the dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Aside from the continuous monitoring and debugging of mosquito-infested areas throughout the province, the health department is also making efforts to identify areas where mosquito larvae could thrive to easily apply anti-larval chemicals to kill the dengue-carrying larvae.

In Eastern Visayas, the DOH has directed its health personnel to conduct massive information drives in all villages, schools and to local government units to how to combat the spread of dengue fever.

Boni Cave, regional assistant secretary, said the DOH directive, issued by Health Secretary Francisco Duque, was an indication that the health department would want to ensure that residents of dengue-stricken areas would be vaccinated before it reaches an outbreak level.

He said that all government-run hospitals in Eastern Visayas have an "express lane" for persons afflicted with dengue fever. Private hospitals in the region were also encouraged to give priority to dengue-like disease symptoms of the disease," Cave said.

The symptoms of dengue fever include high fever, muscle and joint pains, rashes and severe headaches. The disease could prove fatal if not given proper medication on time. (Jenny Cayabyab and Jonathan Mejos, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Greg Bañaclon, Inquirer Central Luzon; Brenda Pinlac, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Jose A. Gabaldon, Inquirer Visayas)

DENGUE victim Jan-Jan Bolisay, 7-years old, lies in bed in his mother cecelia's lap at the Rizal Provincial Hospital, Sept. 9, 2006. Bolisay was brought to the hospital for dengue.

New BCDA exec appointed to oversee ₱21-B project

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Bases Conversion Development Authority has not suspended or investigated one of its top officials accused of receiving "kickback commissions" from firms wanting to get sub-contracts in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project (SCTEP).

The news that the BCDA did not appoint Jose Paras, the agency's executive vice president, to SCTEP's executive director, apparently to take a closer hands-on interest, Ben Chan, BCDA vice president for operations and SCTEP program director.

Leilani Mercasco, BCDA corporate officer and Chan confirmed Paras's appointment, which he assumed this month.

Chan said he found nothing unusual with the creation of that new post in having Paras in that post.

He has been handling that job. The change only removed the job description. He a say loss responsibility and I actually report to him," Chan said in a text message.

Mercasco said Chan has not been relieved from any of his posts.

"There has been no formal complaint filed against Mr. Chan," Mercasco said.

Chan said he requested the program director of the P21-billion SCTEP's major infrastructure project of the Subic's administration, which was suffering delays as a result of controversies in the BCDA.

The 93-km highway links the Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo and Zambales, Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and Tarlac, and the Santa Rosa Export Park in Tarlac City.

A group of contractors, in a letter on Aug. 24, said Chan collected "illegal commissions" from each firm. A list of at least 12 companies that agreed to pay up for seven get projects was given to the Inquirer.

Chan had denied the allegation, saying it was part of a campaign to extort him out of the agency. He has not worked for three days.

He said he did not endorse any local contractor to the two Japanese joint ventures. Contractors, however, said BCDA president Narciso Abaya's confidants, the undersecretary, Chan and Mercasco.

(Cecille Suerte Felipe/Inquirer Central Luzon)

Camarines Sur gov seeks Japan job edge

CAMARINES SUR Gov. Luis Villafuerte will soon visit Japan to promote the province and the rest of the Bicol region as a better option than their colleagues from other areas in the country in getting jobs in Japan.

Villafuerte made the announcement after the recent signing of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which allows, among others, the deployment of 400 to 500 Filipino nurses to Japan every year.

Camarines Sur is the first and only LGU that offers Dec level BS and IV Nursing courses for nursing and caregiving jobs.

"Whether we like it or not, there is a limit to the number of Filipino nurses that can be deployed to Japan every year. Since most of our nurses have undergone Bridge classes, they already have an edge or they now possess the necessary communication skills," Villafuerte added in his statement.

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WHY LADLAD?

Because gay lawmakers won't ...

By Jeremy Boving

IF ONLY GAY LAWMAKERS IN CONGRESS had come out and openly pressed for the rights of members of the "third sex," the Ang Ladlad organization wouldn't see be seeking representation through the party-list election in the first place.

Ang Ladlad chair Danny Remonde lamented this sentiment yesterday as he and about a dozen colleagues filed a petition before the Commission on Elections seeking to accredit their organization under the party-list system.

"We're not represented in Congress because those who are gay in the houses or the House of Representatives would never admit that they are gay and fight for us. So the time is ripe for us to run as a party list," Remonde said.

Remonde, an English professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, wore a pink bonong and was flanked by Ang Ladlad members carrying a multicolored "pride flag" after he removed Comelec officer the petition.

"The registration papers I'm going to file present proof that there are many of us. We can here and we will never lose our voice again," he declared.

Comelec education and information director Atthan Antonio said Ang Ladlad would have no hurdle in being approved if it was able to show proof that it represented a sector and its interests.

Accredited groups have between Jan. 21 and 8th. It can ye to file their intent to participate in the May 14 elections by nominating possible representatives to the House of Representatives.

Under the party-list law, a group needs at least only 2 per cent of the total votes cast to win a seat in the House.

"Getting the 800,000 votes is easy if only gays would vote. And if all those 4.3 million gays vote for Ang Ladlad, we'll surely get 16 to maximum allowance of three party-list seats," Remonde added.

If it wins, Ang Ladlad would principally work for the end of discrimination against lesbian, gay bisexual and transgendered" (LGBT) people, Remonde said.

He estimated that of the 4.3 million registered voters nationwide, as much as 10 per cent belong to the LGBT group. However, only a small percent were actually "out" or open about their gender orientation, he added.

According to Remonde, Ladlad had about 1,200 registered members coming from Metro Manila. The members include beauty parlor owners and workers, same-sex marriage proponents, transsexual activists and gay writers/critics.

Ang Ladlad is seeking equal rights and not special rights for the LBGT community, he said.

ANG LADLAD chair Danton Remonde arrives at the Comelec's office in Intramuros, Manila, Friday to file their application for accreditation as party-list organization. AP/JOHN GUSS

NO PRESS FREEDOM

160 NGOs boycott Singapore conference

BATAM, INDONESIA—More than 160 non-government groups on Friday declared a boycott of IMF and World Bank meetings in Singapore to protest a clampdown on free speech and the banning of activists.

A PROTESTER wears a mask as a representation Friday in an indoor protest area at the IMF-WB meetings in Singapore. AP/WIRE

"In solidarity with those denied entry into Singapore and denied the exercise of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and association, we will stay away from all meetings and seminars in the World Bank and IMF 2006 annual meetings in Singapore," the 164 organizations said in a statement.

"We call on all social movements, civil society organizations and networks and individuals to uphold the rights of peoples to freedom of expression and association, and to exercise that boycott by staying away from the official meetings in Singapore."

The statement came on the sidelines of the International Peoples' Tribunal against the IMF and World Bank which began Friday on the Indonesian island of Batam, about an hour by boat from Singapore. About 300 people are attending.

Activists staged the boycott on Batam, after the Singapore government refused to waive a long-standing ban on outdoor protests for accredited groups during the Sept. 15-20 International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings.

"In order to shifle dissent and any possible protests during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings, the Singapore government has resorted to draconian security measures," the statement said.

Singapore police said they had taken the tough security measures because the country, Southeast Asia's most advanced economy, is a high-profile "terrorist" target and any public protests would compromise preparations.

World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz said Singapore had agreed to reassess whether 27 of the hundreds of activists accredited for the World Bank and IMF meetings should be admitted.

But he said Singapore had reflected "enormous damage" to its own reputation because of its refusal to admit the people who were already accredited by the Bank and IMF to attend the meetings.

Last Friday, Singapore finally allowed 22 of the 27 banned activists to attend the World Bank-IMF meetings after it revoked "visas" from the two institutions, which had unanimously protested the move to disallow their participation.

The Batam forum is being held indoors at a sprawling complex used by foreign religious groups on retreats for the annual haj pilgrimage, as well as for religious conferences.

Organizers said they were negotiating with police to allow them a ticket outdoor march when the event winds up on Sunday.

The NGOs did not spare the World Bank and IMF from their criticism, saying the two Washington-based lenders knew of the city-state's strict laws against public gathering when they planned the meetings.

"These institutions are most comfortable in countries without respect for civil liberties and human rights," said Sumiyo Omotani of the nongovernment group 50 Years is Enough.

Both institutions "would not have been in the dark about Singapore's track record when they chose it," Omotani said.

"Our boycott is a response to egregious hypocrisy," said Ina Maria Silvanasa, president of the Philippine-based Freedom from Debt Coalition. AFP

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Erezel Reyes (Cabanatuan)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Japhet Tomedes (Tagbilaran)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Nathaniel Yapak (Bacoor)	₱5,000 GCash
Kristine Castillo (Santa Fe)	₱5,000 GCash
Mary Jane Cruz (Calamba)	₱5,000 GCash

WEEK 2 WINNERS (Draw Date - August 22)

Ana Buena (Las Baños)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Ma. Mayrette Panaligan (Calamba)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Villa Sadol (Makati)	₱5,000 GCash
Vivian Castillo (Calamba)	₱5,000 GCash
Ronald Alan Co (Manila)	₱5,000 GCash

WEEK 3 WINNERS (Draw Date - August 29)

Ted Andrei Melendres (Cabuyao)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Ma. Mayrette Panaligan (Calamba)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Jane Macarandan (Tagbilaran)	₱5,000 GCash
Ma. Teresa Quines (Cabanatuan)	₱5,000 GCash
Karl Rasada (Tagbilaran)	₱5,000 GCash

GRAND DRAW WINNERS (Draw Date - August 29)

Ronald Alan Co (Manila)	₱55,000 GCash
Ma. Carmen Reyes (Cabanatuan)	Sony Ericsson W800i
Villa Sadol (Makati)	Sony Ericsson W800i
Melody Faith Trigo (Tagbilaran)	₱15,000 GCash
Gerardo Libalon (Tagbilaran)	₱15,000 GCash
Marissa Rodriguez (Calamba)	₱15,000 GCash
Eduardo Bueno Jr. (Las Baños)	₱15,000 GCash
Andres Panaligan (Calamba)	₱15,000 GCash

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Fight global warming with pollution?

WASHINGTON—TO STALL global warming for 20 years, one climate scientist is proposing pumping sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, which would work in concert with cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The sulfur dioxide, a pollutant on earth, would form sulfate aerosol particles to shade the planet, much as the ash clouds from a major volcanic eruption do, said Tom Wigley of the US National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Wigley used computer models to determine that injecting sulfur particles at intervals from one to four years would have about the same cooling power as the 1991 eruption on Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

His research, published in the journal Science, indicates this approach would work together with cutting emissions of greenhouse gases, which are produced by the burning of fossil fuels.

The idea of injecting sulfates into the atmosphere, some 16 km above the Earth's surface, was first proposed and quickly rejected three decades ago as a dangerous tinkering with natural processes.

But Wigley said he was prompted to pursue this angle when Paul Crutzen, a Nobel-winning atmospheric chemist, recently suggested a test look at the notion of geoengineering, as the notion is known.

"I'm not suggesting we don't reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for energy," Wigley said in a telephone interview.

"I think that that is the only long-term solution to the problem of global warming, we definitely have to do that.

"But ... can we make it economically and technologically easier by doing something that's also technology related, may be cost-effective?"

It would not be cheap, according to Wigley's estimates.

The most sensible way to get sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere would be to send unmanned planes—more than the world's current commercial airline fleet—to take it there. Reuters

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Rescue teams stop man from jumping off billboard

By DJ Yap and Rudy Lorrey

A 31-YEAR-OLD MAN THREATENED TO jump off a 100-foot billboard on top of a supermarket on Tobar in Quezon City yesterday morning, causing a traffic jam on the busy thoroughfare.

The man, apparently bothered by personal problems, was later brought down by the rescue team, identified as Seng Mesikol Olimsun Abuda, Baliuasak, the man climbed the steel railings of a billboard on top of the Makro supermarket near Elliptical Avenue, Cubao at about 7:30 a.m. A security guard called for police assistance.

Philippine Army soldiers and Philippine National Police rescue teams from nearby Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame together with firefighters arose and laid out inflated mats to break his fall if he decided to jump. Two firefighters climbed the steel railings and gave Abuda a bottle of water and two-way radio to communicate with rescuers.

The police said Abuda quarreled with his wife and slipped past security guards to climb the billboard. Watchers said they mistook him for a maintenance man. "He did not really question him about why he did it because we know it was a personal matter and we respected his privacy," Cubao Police station commander Supt. Bernabe Balbuena.

Balbo said Abuda, who said he was a consultant for a firm, seemed well-off and did not fit the profile of jumpers.

Seng Abuda sits at the base of a 100-foot billboard of the Makro supermarket in Cubao, Quezon City after he threatened to jump off, attracting the attention of passersby. A rescue team brought down Abuda from his perch after he calmed down. He was later arrested on the scene.

10 cops in trader's kidnap charged

Accused demanded P3M for victim's freedom, says SPD

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SOUTHERN POLICE DISTRICT yesterday filed kidnapping with serious illegal detention charges against 10 police officers from its anti-narcotics team who had been relieved of their posts early this week for allegedly extorting money from a Japanese businessman.

Charged were Sups. Roberto Marin, SPO3 Special Operations Task Force head; Agnace officer; Chief Insp. Tito Oreja, Station Anti-Illegal Drugs action officer; Chief Insp. Alcester Esquino and team members SPO1 Dalfin Macario, PO3 Rodolfo Garcia, PO2 Jose Bilagpo, PO2 Cirilo Lemery, PO2 Oswaldo Gutierrez Jr., PO2 Roberto Juvenir and PO2 Bernardo Cabeo. Two Japanese nationals—Katayama Nozuki and Yoshinori Yoshizumi—and Valentino Cortez were also charged with the same offense.

Supt. Michel Pilare, chief of the SPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Group filed the complaints in the office of Pasay City Prosecutor Elmer Miles following an inquiry into Hosuyuki Inaza. It's accusation that the policemen extorted P3 million from him after he was arrested at a Pasay City motel on Sept. 8 in what was supposedly a test-buy operation. "Our investigation showed the accused were not acting as policemen but as private individuals when they conducted the operation," Pilare said the letters.

Suzuki, who arrived from Japan in Sept. 3, said in his affidavit that Cortez met him at his Makati City hotel at around 10 p.m. on Sept. 8 and presented to the Manila Royal Drive-Inn motel together with the suspended team, who allegedly invited the pair to join them in a shabu session.

The accused policemen then reportedly barged in, confiscated the shabu and later took the victim to the District Intelligence and Investigation office at SPD headquarters in Pasay City.

Nishiki, a friend of the complainant, arrived at the station with Yoshizuki to help Suzuki negotiate with the police-men for his release.

The policemen the allegedly asked for P3 million in exchange for Suzuki's freedom.

The officers also presented not to file any criminal charges against him, the complainant said.

Suzuki said he raised the money by making an offshore transaction in Japan using his cell phone.

After the policemen claimed the cash the next day at a Makati apartment, the businessman said he was released.

DOH says dengue situation 'relatively good'

By Jocelyn Ating

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO Duque III yesterday allayed fears of a dengue epidemic, saying the numbers of cases nationwide were "relatively good," compared to Dengue last year.

Duque said only 14,595 cases were registered from Jan. 1-Sept. 9, representing a 58 percent decrease from last year's 35,000. So far, only 186 deaths were recorded, almost half of the 316 for the same period last year.

"The figures are relatively good compared to last year. Our problem really is the clustered outbreaks in some places, but in some areas the rate of infection is already declining," Duque said in a press conference.

The secretary said the attacked, particularly alternating rainy and hot climates, was a major reason for the increase in population of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, carrier of the dengue virus. He said stagnant water is considered a breeding grounds.

Following past trends, dengue cases would start to drop by October as the monsoon season ended, Duque added.

The secretary advised the public to follow the DOH's Four-S campaign against dengue.

Four-S stands for search and destroy breeding sites, self-protective measures, seeking early treatment and ensuring "no unnecessary fogging."

Meanwhile, Ricardo Lozada, director of the Ninoy Aquino Medical Center in Manila City told the business that they recorded more dengue cases this year compared to last year.

The hospital also accepts patients from Quezon City, Antipolo City and other towns in Rizal. The number of cases at the hospital rose to 355 in July, then to 537 in August, Lozada added.

With reports from C. Escalon Jr.

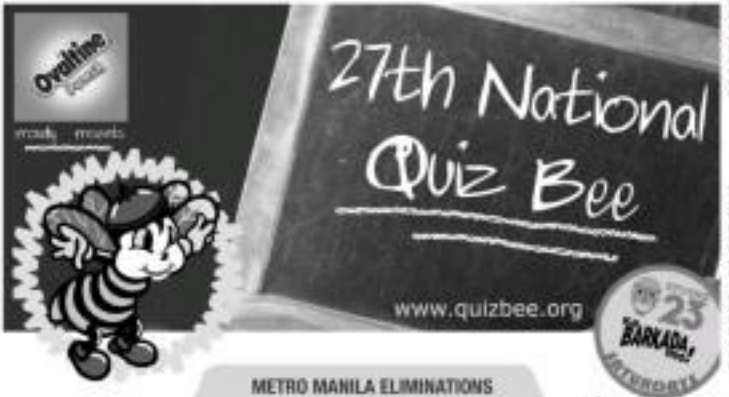
NCRPO says media slay cases in Metro 'solved'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office (NCRPO) seems to have beat the deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo to solve cases of political and media killings in Metro Manila.

NCRPO Director Gen. Reynaldo Wycliffe announced yesterday that his office has solved four cases with the arrest of six suspects and the filing of the cases against the suspects in the courts. The cases the office announced solved were the murder of dr. Isidro Obsidian, a news reporter assigned at the Northern Police District and the killing of cabinet reporter Prudencio Bautista, BFAI-C commission Ralph Wenzi and Rodolfo Pagkinawan, assistant for Purefoods Manufacturing Corp. in Marikina City.

Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon directed his men last month to solve one-on-one and make one arrest per region before the end of the month. "With the arrest of the suspects, we can show his most rights advocates and the international community that the government is serious in solving these killings," Wycliffe said in a statement yesterday.



METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS

CONTEST	COMPETITION DATE	VENUE	12nn-1pm TELECAST DATES
Division Championships Manila & Pasay City	Sat., Sep. 2	World Trade Center	Oct. 7 Part 1 Oct. 14 Part 2
Quezon City & Makati City	Sat, Sep 16	Market Market	Oct. 21 Part 1 Oct. 28 Part 2
Caloocan City & Valenzuela, Malabon & Navotas	Sat, Sep 30	SM North Edsa	Nov. 4 Part 1 Nov. 11 Part 2
Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque & Las Piñas	Sat, Oct 14	Festival Mall	Nov. 18 Part 1 Nov. 25 Part 2
Pasig, Marikina, San Juan, & Mandaluyong City	Sat, Oct 28	Robinsons Galleria	Dec. 2 Part 1 Dec. 9 Part 2
Metro Manila Regional Finals	Sat, Nov 11	SM Mall of Asia	Dec. 16 Part 1 Dec. 23 Part 2

NATIONWIDE ELIMINATIONS

School Eliminations (Jul 1 – Aug 31)
District Eliminations (Sep 1 – 30)
Division Eliminations (Oct 1 – 15)
Regional Eliminations (Oct 16 – 31)
Summit of the Super Quiz Bee (Nov 20 – Dec. 1)
National Grand Finals (Dec 2)

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METRO BRIEFS

Show of support

TWO DAYS after Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay turned an alleged government plot to suspend him, thousands of Makati City residents trooped to City Hall yesterday morning to show of support. Some citizens, which made up the bulk of the crowd, were seen in praising the mayor "who takes care of our city well and has been generous to the people." He was also quoted that when the suspension of Binay Mayor Nuvenes Trinidad, he was next on the list of opposition figures to be suspended as part of Malacañang's effort to muzzle anti-administration politicians. Also appearing to support Binay were known figures in politics, including former Social Welfare Secretary "Dinky" Soliman, the black and white Monteverde's Lady Rosario, Bayang Magmahay Makabayan secretary general Rosario Reyes Jr. and Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino. Sara F. Delmendo

2 Pasay officials relieved

SECOND Pasay City Mayor Jubert Trinidad yesterday relieved city administrator Eva Gumapac and city legal officer Phil Ramos, hours after City Councilor and suspended Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad Peñaflor appointed lawyer Lenny Dial to Gumapac's post but no replacement for Ramos had been named yet. Trinidad said he relieved the two to maintain his credibility with people who trust in and confidence. Following the order, Gumapac said she filed a petition with the Pasay Regional Trial Court to prohibit Trinidad from implementing Civil Service Commission ruling that suspension of Peñaflor could not oppose a city administrator. "I decided to terminate our case instead. But I will just wait for the court's decision," Gumapac said. No reaction yesterday. Jocelyn R. Uy

Democratic space abused

ON TARGET

RAMON TULFO

THE ACCUSATION of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Efraim Genuino Tagitong Jr. that some party-list representatives are enemies of the state is veiled.

Some party-list groups have not shed their revolutionary tones and still want the violent overthrow of the government. A big chunk of the push has all of those party-list groups ends up with the rebels.

* * *

Since communism has been made legal, some of its adherents are now in Congress.

But instead of espousing their cause, too many lawyers, like the House of Representatives, a number of these party-list congressmen still extend their left hand to the armed movement. They have abused the hospitality of the democratic government by still seeking its violent overthrow.

* * *

Supposing you extended a hand of friendship or reconciliation to a former enemy. You showed your sincerity to your erstwhile enemy by allowing him the use of your house.

But the guy continued to lambast ill feelings toward you and still wanted you dead. Would you still consider him a friend or an enemy? Of course, you would be wary of him.

That's what General Esperon meant when he said that some party list congressmen, like Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño, are enemies of the state hiding behind the legitimate cover of their organizations.

* * *

I am not justifying the killing of some members of leftist organizations, like Bayan Muna, by some people in the military.

True that there are those that the New People's Army (NPA) is waging an unconventional war against the government. The war is not played by the rules.

Since the government is bound by the rules, some officers in the military have taken it upon themselves to fight the NPA on its own game.

That's why the problem of extrajudicial killings has cropped up. It's not sanctioned by the government, but some government people make the heinous crime willingly.

Or maybe the NPAs killed some of their own and have succeeded in pinning the blame on the government. The government, of course, is the natural and convenient suspect.

Remember, the NPAs executed what they considered their erring members in a mass purge a couple of years ago. Aren't they capable of doing that now?

* * *

I apologize to the Philippine Marine Corps for that comment in the space that the death of six Marines in one battle—a big number for a revenue-fighting unit—was caused by demoralization in the ranks.

I didn't know that the Marines who engaged the Sayyaf terrorists in Jolo Basilan in Bohol, Sulu, were greatly outnumbered. And for the Marines, true to their reputation, fought on despite the overwhelming odds.

That column was not meant to denigrate the military's "fighting spirit" and patriotism group. I have always admired the Marines for their bravery in combat. If I had become a soldier, I would have joined the Marines.

* * *

To those who have sent their sympathy and support to me and my brothers Erwin and Bally, thank you very much. We will not be cowed, especially now that we have your moral support. For evil to triumph, good men need only to do nothing.

I'm not saying my brothers and I are angels, but neither are we demons as our detractors are trying to paint us. I thank Fmr. Undersec. Mike Arroyo for giving me the chance to disprove my foes well.

Algeria terror group joins al-Qaida, targets France

PARIS—AL-QAIDA HAS JOIN THE fight against terrorism in Algeria, the first time announced a union with an Algerian insurgent group that has designated France as an enemy, and has warned they will hunt significant Algerian, French and American interests.

Current and former French officials specializing in terrorism said an al-Qaeda alliance with the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known by its French initials as GSPC, was reason for concern.

"We take these threats very seriously," Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said, adding in an interview on France 2 television that the threat to France was "high" and "persistent," and that "American embassies" were targeted.

Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the "blessed union" with the Algerian insurgency movement in a video posted on the web on the Internet to mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

French officials have long regarded the GSPC as one of the main potential terror threats for France. But French experts also noted that the group has been severely weakened by internal dissension, army crackdowns and combatants' defections to Algeria, a former French territory still working to put down an Islamic insurgency that touched its most murderous heights in the 1990s.

"The GSPC is losing speed and has suffered very significant losses in recent months," said Louis Caprioli, former assistant director of France's DST counterterrorism and counterintelligence agency.

Some GSPC fighters took advantage of a recent Algerian amnesty for Islamic insurgents, others have been killed, and Caprioli said such a union could inspire Algerian former militants in Europe to activate and thus there was also a risk of GSPC militants fleeing Algeria and drifting here to prepare terror attacks.

In his video, al-Zawahiri hailed "the coming up" of the GSPC with al-Qaida as "good news."

All the praise is due to Allah for the blessed move which we ask Allah to be as a boon to the detriment of the Americans and French Crusaders and their allies, and Jupiter Zionists, someone said objected to the hearts of the mujahideen, spokesmen said of France, "he said.

"We ask him (Allah) to guide our brothers in the Salafist Group for Call and Combat to reach the pillars of the Crusaders' alliance, especially their elderly immoral leader, there too."

AP

Puzzling giant planet discovered

WASHINGTON—SCIENTISTS said on Thursday they have spotted an unusually large and light planet orbiting a distant star—a discovery that could have hard-to-visualize theories about how planets are formed.

"We have discovered a very bizarre new object," research astrophysicist Robert Noyes said at a news conference. "The people who do theoretical models are left scratching their heads as to what's going on." The planet, dubbed HD 209458 b, is the largest planet ever detected, roughly one-third larger in diameter than Jupiter, but with weight half as much, astronomers with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory reported in Nature weekly.

Unlike Jupiter, Saturn and other "gas planets," this planet does not have a solid core, they said.

It is extremely close to its parent star, one-seventh of the distance from Earth to the sun, and it makes a complete orbit once every 4.5 days.

What is puzzling scientists is that the planet is larger than predicted by current theories.

The large size could be the result of heat coming from the interior of the planet but scientists have yet to determine how that could happen, Noyes said.

Scientists found the planet by measuring changes in the star's wobble. Reuters

FIRST BOY IN FOUR DECADES
Japan's Princess Kiko (right) and her husband Prince Akishino smile as they leave a Tokyo hospital with their newborn son Prince Hisahito in Tokyo Sept. 15. Prince Hisahito is the first boy to be born into Japan's imperial family in nearly 41 years. REUTERS

Bush faces Senate rebellion over rights of terror suspects

WASHINGTON—A SENATE COMmittee rebelled against President George W. Bush on Thursday, passing a bill it said would protect the rights of foreign terrorism suspects and repair a CIA image damaged by harsh treatment of detainees.

Almost other Bush-want to Capitol Hill to urge fellow Republicans to back his proposals for putting suspected terrorists on trial, a divided Senate Armed Services Committee approved its own bill which it said would meet demands of the US Supreme Court that sends down Bush's original plan.

The committee also ordered Bush's bid to insert narrowly defined the Geneva Conventions' standards for humane treatment of prisoners, which Bush said was essential to enable the CIA to obtain valuable information from detainees.

Bush has been under the fire in defense circumstances and harsh treatment of foreign suspects at Guantanamo Bay as well as abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Human rights groups say mistreatment of prisoners has damaged US moral standing.

Senior lawmakers say they fear the practices put American soldiers at greater risk of harm or abuse if they are captured in conflicts overseas.

The bill—pushed by chair John Warner of Virginia and fellow Republican Senators John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina—cleared the committee 15-6 with support from Democrats and Maine Republican Senator Collins.

Reuters

Bush's reversals is war on terror

GUBLUTTER ARIAS IN PARIS

the Bush administration's war on terrorism has been dealt setbacks.

• Military tribunals. The Supreme Court in June rejected as illegal the military tribunal system set up by the Bush administration to try Guantanamo prisoners, most of whom were captured in Afghanistan. The court said the tribunals—an alternative legal system—lacked congressional authorization and did not meet US military or international justice standards.

• Domestic surveillance. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush directed the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on international phone calls and e-mails of US citizens without obtaining a warrant when in pursuit of suspected terrorists. But a federal judge in August ruling was ruled the program illegal. Bush has appealed.

• CIA terrorism detention program. Bush this month publicly acknowledged the CIA had held high-level terrorism suspects, including alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, in secret overseas locations. He announced Mohammed and 13 others were transferred recently to the Guantanamo Bay Cuba, detention center run by the Pentagon to be prosecuted in the future.

Reuters

Chief judge tells Saddam: You are not a dictator

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE CHIEF judge in the genocide trial of Saddam Hussein answered the defendant on Thursday that he was "not a dictator," a day after a court prosecutor demanded the judge be removed for showing bias toward Saddam and inviting him to give testimony.

One witness, a Kurdish farmer, testified that in 1988 he had pleaded with Saddam for the life of his wife and seven young children. He said a furious Saddam shouted, "Shut up and get out."

In court, Saddam jumped up to defend himself.

"Why did he try to see Saddam Hussein?" he asked the judge, referring to himself in the third person, as is his habit in court. "Wasn't Saddam a dictator and an enemy to the Kurdish people, as they say?"

The judge replied: "I will answer you: You are not a dictator. But a dictator," he repeated. "You were not a dictator."

Saddam, smiling, replied, "Thank you."

The judge said, "The people or those who are around the official make him a dictator, and it is not just you. This is the case all over the world." The judge, Abdullah al-Amiri, is a Shiite who had served as a judge in Saddam's government.

Saddam and six other former high-ranking officials are charged in connection with the killing of as many as 50,000 Kurds, including many in chemical weapons strikes in a 1988 military campaign to eliminate them from the mountainous parts of Iraq's far north.

New York Times

WorldBriefs

Carter: Blair failed to moderate US policy

LONDON—Former US President Jimmy Carter accused British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday of simply copying US foreign policies instead of acting as a moderating influence. "I have been vastly disappointed in the apparent subservience of the British government's contact related to many of the serious problems that have been originated in Washington," Carter told the BBC's Newsnight program. Carter, a Democrat who was president from 1977 to 1981, cited Blair's close relationship with Washington during the Kosovo war between Serbia and Yugoslavia in Lebanon and its participation in the US-led 2000 coalition of the willing in Iraq. The former president's criticism followed the stories in influential US President George W. Bush but, it was, it had been to no avail. Carter, who won from the world promoting peace through his foundation, said Britain had acted as a moderating influence in the past through the so-called special relationship between the two countries but this role no longer the case. "This time no matter what kind of radical or ill-advised policy is proposed from the White House it seems to me that almost automatically the government of Great Britain would adopt the same policy," said Carter.

Reuters

CARTER

Annan declines to submit his finances

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has declined to submit personal financial disclosures for his possible nephew by his sister for its use of a time the world body is undergoing criticisms, officials said on Thursday. Technically, Annan is not considered a civil servant and does not have to file out the form because, influential sources to tighten staff rules, including the receipt of gifts over $250. But his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, had announced earlier the UN chief would file the form to fill out the forms. Annan last year accepted a $100,000 award presented prize, sponsored by The United Arab Emirates, and he created a new foundation in Africa but later donated the money to UN humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Some UN officials and diplomats said Annan's decision to accept this award was politically unwise when the secretary was requesting from charges of corruption in the 2000 billion-dollar food-for-oil humanitarian program for Iraq and when he himself was in the forefront of initiating reforms.

Reuters

Japan cult guru's death sentence finalized

TOKYO—Japan's Supreme Court on Friday finalized the death sentence on Shoko Asahara, the founder of the doomsday cult that attacked the Tokyo subway in 1995, throwing out his last appeal, media have said. The guru's lawyers had remained deadline more than a year ago to submit an appeal to the fourth sentence, arguing that Asahara was mentally unfit and only mumbled nonsense in meetings. But Japan's top court refused to ignore motion by the defense making it routine. He appeal rule, meaning Asahara will be sent to the gallows, public broadcaster NHK and others media said. Asahara, a 45-year-old former acupuncturist, was convicted of ordering his followers to release Sarin-laced nerve gas on rush-hour trains in March 1995, leaving 12 people dead and injuring thousands more. Japanese, the only major industrialized nation with the United States to practice capital punishment, which enjoys wide public support. But Japan only executed one inmate last year and none so far this year. Critics accuse international criticism for giving inmates only a few hours notice before hanging them in order to ward off last-minute appeals.

AFP

ASAHARA

Calcium pills seen useless

PARIS—CALCIUM supplements fail to provide long-term strengthening of bones, according to a study published on the Internet, a disease commonly facing women after the menopause.

The paper, published online by the British Medical Journal (BMJ), is a review of 19 major studies that involved nearly 2,000 healthy children aged between three and 18.

They included children who were given calcium supplements for at least three months and whose bone health was then monitored more than six months afterwards.

Children taking the supplements only had 1.5 percent better bone density in the spine than those taking no supplements, researchers who did not take the extra calcium.

This small benefit did persist in the upper limbs, but there was no significant effect on the rest of body, particularly at sites such as the hip and forearm, where fractures are prone to happen later in life.

Bone density declines naturally among women after the menopause, and doctors are keen to boost bone mass early in life through diet and exercise.

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Bueno

Muslims hit Pope's remarks on Islam

ROME—AS POPE BENEDICT XVI ARRIVED BACK HOME FROM Germany, Muslim leaders on Thursday strongly criticized a speech he had given using unflattering language about Islam.

Some of the strongest words came from Turkey, possibly putting to jeopardy Benedict's plan to visit there in November.

"I do not think any good will come from the visit to the Muslim world of a person who has such ideas about Islam's prophet," Ali Bardakoglu, a cleric and chief of the Turkish government's directorate of religious affairs, said in a television interview there. "He should first of all explain the pledge in his heart with social values and respect for the other."

Muslim leaders in Pakistan, Morocco and Kuwait, in addition to some in Germany and France, were also critical, with many demanding an apology or clarification. The extent of anger about the speech may become clearer on Friday, the Muslim day of prayer, in which governments are often routed publicly.

The tornado came on Tuesday when Benedict delivered a major address—which some elsewhere say was a defining speech of his pontificate—saying the West, and specifically Europe, had become so beholden to reason that it had shoved God out of public life, science and academia.

But for longer-than-speech, at Regensburg University, with what he extended were "brusque" words about Islam. He quoted a 14th-century Byzantine emperor as saying, "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

The Pope also used the word jihad, or holy war, saying violence was contrary to God's nature and to reason.

POPE Benedict XVI

But, at the end of a speech that did not otherwise mention Islam, he also said that reason could be the basis for "free genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today."

Another cleric here, Gabriele Giordano, cited in an Italian statement saying the Roman Catholic Church sought to "cultivate an attitude of respect and dialogue toward other religions and cultures, and obviously also toward Islam."

But many experts on Islam warned that Benedict ran the risk of offense in using such strong language, especially with controls between religions so high.

"I don't think the church should point a finger at reverend individuals in other religions," Amar Mamali, president of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, was quoted as saying in the newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau on Thursday, pointedly recalling the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition and the Vatican's relations with Mussolini.

Muslims also objected to another part of the lecture, in which Benedict quoted a scholarly statement that the Muslim view of God, unlike the Christian, was not informed by the Greek-inspired western philosophical tradition of "rationality."

A member of the Moroccan parliament, Abdelilah Benhamza, said in Rabat that this claim was "an offense to a billion Muslims".

"We hope that the Roman Catholic Church will very quickly... clarify its position so that it does not confuse Islam, which is a revealed religion, with Islamism, which is not a religion but a political ideology," the head of the French Council for the Muslim Religion (CFCM), Dalil Boubakeur, said. AFP, AFP

Controversial Italian journalist Fallaci dies at 77

MILAN—ORIANA FALLACI, ONE OF ITALY'S best-known journalists and war correspondents who shocked the literary world with a vitriolic assault on Islam after the Sept.11 attacks on the United States, died on Friday aged 77.

Fallaci died at her home in central Florence after battling cancer for several years, a hospital official said.

Aggressive and provocative until the end, Fallaci made her name as a master interviewer of some of the most famous leaders of the 20th century.

They included Ethiopian leader Haile Selassie, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and PLO Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

She covered wars in Vietnam, the Middle East, and Latin America at a time when few women braved the front lines, and was shot and beaten in 1968 during student demonstrations in Mexico.

In her interview with Kissinger, Fallaci described the US statesman until he agreed that the Vietnam War was "useless" and said as a politician he was "the cowboy who leads the wagon train by riding about alone on his horse." Kissinger later wrote that her interview with him was "the single most dramatic confrontation I have ever had with any member of the press." Fallaci set the pace for a daring life when she joined Italy's anti-fascist resistance during World War II, then dressed in the same leather jacket and was not recognized.

In her later years she led a reclusive life in New York but set off a storm with books and interviews assailing Islam after the 2001 suicide attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

She divided her fans when she wrote "The Rage and the Pride," an angry look at attacks she described as a threat to opposition and Arab immigrants to Europe as elitist and bigoted.

In a later book, "The Force of Reason," she wrote that "Journalists" had killed 6,000 people over the past 20 years in the name of the Koran and said the Islamic faith "sows hatred in the place of love and, slavery in the place of freedom." In another book she said Italy had elevated Palleschi stand trial on charges she defamed Islam, but the case never went to court.

Reuters

FALLACI

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E-mail: [illegible]

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendrez

Text-to-cow hotline: [illegible]

- **Pagunsan-Rosales slips to 5th** /A24

EFREN "Bata" Reyes: Still in impeccable form.

Bata survives, Django falls in Jakarta 9-Ball

JAKARTA—RED-HOT FILIPINO cue master Efren "Bata" Reyes opened defense of his crown with an easy 9-5 victory over Indonesian bet Roy Apancho Friday in the Jakarta leg of the 2006 Sun Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

But livably Francisco "Django" Bustamante suffered to Taiwanese Wang Hung-hsiang, 6-5, upset dampening his bid for a first ever Asian tour crown.

Another Filipino, Rodolfo "Boy Jumawan" Luat, trumped Thai Amnatpong Chaiyapong, 9-7, in two-piece with Reyes.

Bangkok Champion Ramil Gallego suffered a humbling 1-9 loss to Japanese Shusaki Tendo in class match.

Apancho took chore of the first four racks until a bold attack on Reyes' safety on the 5-ball in the first rack and a rack run in the second and fourth.

But Reyes finally find his groove as Apancho fouled in the fifth rack.

Showing the form that gave him the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 9-Ball title and the P20 million time goes with it recently, Reyes came up with a 5-rack streak and moved ahead, 6-3.

The young Indonesian managed to snip the 7-8 post old Reyes' romp and set the game at 6 by taking the eighth rack via a golden break.

It was at this point that the unquenchable fitness wowe his magic. Capitalizing on a fouled shot by the Indonesian on the 2-ball in the next rack, Reyes began another 5-rack run to [illegible]

Apancho managed to score only once before Reyes, showing his pocketing skills, proceeded to take the match and his first win of the group stage, 9-5.

Reinforcement arrived here Thursday afternoon with compatriot and Bangkok leg champion Ramil Gallego confident Dan he will be performing at his best after posting an un-16-game winning streak in the IPT.

But Wang, the Wu Chi Minh leg semifinalist, displayed solid form, held an even 7-5 lead and managed to clean out the remaining two racks to frustrate Bustamante.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, a former world No. 1, now needs to win his remaining group match against Chinese Li Ho Shin to have a chance to qualify for the quarterfinals.

For information, check out www.asian9-ballbour.com, or contact Diana Chan at (852) 2823 6641 chan@sigmar.com

Top two coaches laugh off pressure

By Jeannine W. Poyo

WITH THEIR VAST experience in the pro league, pros no longer come into play for the coaches of the two top squads in the [illegible]

"The key for my coach is handle the pressure is to be prepared," said Alaska mentor Norman Black. "If you are prepared and well, if you execute your system, if you keep your in good health and feels for the game, you can go out and win basketball games. There's no rocket science there."

After sweeping the top spot in the eliminations round, expectations are high on the Eagles reheading battle the Aces.

Fidanza of the state of the Final Four tourney for in the Araneta Coliseum.

University of the East coach Boots Plemenos faces a similar situation when his

ROSALES

Pagunsan-Rosales slips to 5th

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPPINES' ANIC Pagunsan and Ireneo Rosales settled for a one-under-par 70 to rise two ball (former ball) former Rules and slipped to sixth fifth in the World Cup Qualifier here.

The Filipinos, joint overnight leaders with Che Singaporean and Indian pairs, posted 288 over three rounds at the Seri Selangor Golf Club in a tie with Finland's Mikko Mannisto and Juha Mikka Peltonen, who returned a 67.

They stood seven shots behind Singapore's Marlon Thomas and Lam Chih Bing, who combined for a near-Pipalona 63 Friday for a 12-under 201, going into the final round today.

Rosales, who qualified for the World Cup twice before with his partner Lam, tagged the par-3 13th hole in a display of solid putting.

India's Shiv Kapur, who is ranked sixth on the Asian Tour's US$ Order of Merit, and partner Gaurav Ghei fired a 66 and walled the leaders by three strokes in second spot.

Malaysia's Danny Chia and Ian Reed were in third place at 204 as they kept their hopes alive after an equally impressive 63.

The top two teams after four rounds will qualify for the World Cup of Championship Presidents Cup in Barbados in December.

Lam got off to a good start when he struck a birdie on the second hole followed by a similar feat by Rosales on the third and 10th holes. Lam extended their lead with a birdie on the sixth hole while Rosales added two shot another to another birdie at the eighth hole. After Lam's birdie on the 10th hole, Rosales blasted an eagle on the par-five 14th pole. Click hole.

Indy's Fanatsuke Cattonica and Francisco Molinari were in fourth spot at three shot a 69, six strokes off the pace.

The final round will see the foursomes tabulate their totals.

Test meet scores: 353—Singapore 88-73-63-129—Rule 89-74-68; 356—Malaysia 86-74-68; 357—Italy 88-74-68; 358—Philippines 74-68-70; Finland 88-67-68; 359—Indonesia 75-73-68; 371—Hong Kong 89-78-78; 372—Thailand 75-74-68; 373—Taiwan 75-73-68; 374—Pakistan 89-78-68; 376—Malaysia 75-78-68; 379—Korea 89-79-72; 380—Brazil 76-86-78.

GM Torre clears the air

IT WAS SERENDIPITOUS to be a very serious interview with Grandmaster Eugenio Torre. It was aimed to liberate him from the "prince Jester" label he has supposedly acquired the past years but most people knew exactly what he and fellow GMs Jaty Antonio and Mark Paragua refused to join the qualifying tournament for the Dubai bound—because Dr. Stelio Venturi, having used to be "flawed and domineering."

Having e-mailed a response letter to me some days back, the interview for print and television was supposed to be down—though not necessarily mean.

During the chess interview, Eugenio admitted that he was in his element in the fame hysteria because it was a proven fluke and resulted to know the many times and not those who had worked hard to be up there where they are.

Eugenio said he has a letter to show that they were willing to go through the chess, as long as a different system is used, like the round robin, for example.

After giving his side, Eugenio happily informed me that the air has been cleared among the concerned parties—the NCFP president Atty. Prospero Pichay, their Executive Director Jun Ubaldo.

Philippine Chess is lucky to have men like congressmen Pichay and Defensor who both have genuine love and concern for the game. They may as either in government or well as in sports. Let us hope that they pledged to support the Philippine team to the Asiad, along with Jaty and Mark.

* * *

With the business part of the meeting over, Eugenio and I got to talking about matters that happened 26 years back, or about the time he became the first IM, joint GM, the same time that I was conducting a mini-poll to determine the Ten Greatest Sportsmen of the land. I was doing the list of unsolicited opinions on my own.

Eugenio was seated in the Top Ten. He was then only in his early twenties and I still remember how he looked—long hair a la Beatles, dark shades, flared jeans, Elvis Presley collar.

Three decades former, I asked Eugenio if the title had somewhat affected his life, because the search had created a big impact in the time.

"I believe it aroused the women readers's curiosity and desire to discover the enigma that was enmeshed in a veneer among your choices," Eugenio said.

"In that sense, it greatly helped me multiply fame as ladies especially those who looked for more than chess-sharp."

During those days, Eugenio said, he was already married to his present wife, Molly a blessing, "dalisi kako hindi ako nagka-asa ng mga ladies na curious sa aking sexual yang mga nakita ng mga mata nila. Isa lang naman ang masasabi ko, hindi ako nagsisi sa aking naging buhay."

Aside from Eugenio and the late racecar driver Jerry Bandalaan, I could not remember the other eight of the 10 selected. Eugenio said he had the list and promised to text it to me. He kept a clipping of the article. He suggested that I come up with the Ten Greatest Sportsmen for the 21st century.

* * *

Later that night, I got the list that Eugenio promised.

Twice he puts emphasis on 10 names, the first in 1971, the second in 1976." Here they are:

The ladies' draw for 1974 were Eugenio, Jimmy Jurado, Jaime Alberto, Pamati, Antonio, Elmo Tolentino, Jose Uy, Bonifacio, Manny Sison, Ed Ocampo and Dave Bedico in that order. For the men it included golfer Jimmy Mariano, Jurado, tennis player Medy Domingson, Eugenio again, swimmer Ed Rosario, Dante Silverio, bowler Percy Nepomuceno, cagers Bernie Bibiano and Jingo Antonio and car racer Ambet Bandalaan.

Gosh, I can't believe I had allowed someone to be included in the list. My lady friends must have emitted heavy protests on me. I know Yours Jaimeno did. Boy, do you remember that power photo of Dante in a Playgirl pose, clad only by a towel over his shoulder?

Come to think of it, three decades is a long time. I think I'll take up Eugene on his suggestion. Let the search begin.

Wack Wack President's Cup tees off Tuesday

THE 54-HOLE MEN'S AND SENIORS' golf tournament for the Wack Wack President's Cup will tee off Tuesday at the club's Eastern and West courses. Tee-off time for the club members will be 6:30 a.m., shotgun style, at the West course. The pro-am will be conducted the tougher East layout starting at 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner and awarding ceremonies will follow at the Wack Wack clubhouse and will be co-hosted by Atty. Wilfredo J. Uson Jr. Pichay. The event is sponsored mainly by Unilever and Samsung Electronics and backed by 100 Sponsorella. Chan Wan Services Corp., Pacific Electric Railroad, Wilcon Depot Inc., ESSO and Philippine Airlines. The PCSO, Century Oil Diesel and Gilbert O. Duazo Jr. / Jaypinay Marketing Corp., Fortune Resources Corp., Robinsons Land, Sherry Investments, Inc., Cebu Properties, Fernglobe Realty, Inquirer, Milpoly Guards are also major sponsors.

PCU tactician sees tight 'NC' titular series

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN AS VERBEDA COACH JOEY BAYAL CONcedes that the Philippine Christian U's (5-2) Phillies are peaking at the right time.

Asked about the Red Lions' chances against the ever-strong Realtors, Bayal issued a mild caveat on the Dolphins' sharp play of late.

"Kapag kami nakipaglaro kapag mga ganoon ang depensa ng kalaban. Dapat ay capable of treating an opponent's defense with alley dumapuan, "ika-sabi Bayal.

Coming from one who celebrated the defensive feat of his former tenure, the mind-speaks list about the weakness of the Dolphins, who won five straight games to march into the last of three championship series with the favored Red Lions.

But PCU coach Joel Shalim counters how key deployment and proper implementation of plays is to keeping any defending champion's game.

"Share o hindi of players who are not afraid of having San Beda," said Shalim. "Pero meron lamang [Alanzo Lemuel] nakakatakot dun sa ayun, meron lang kapertsuhan, ani kami sa coach."

Shalim, who later owns the entire front-wrapped mentor Jose Elmo Calayan before the season started, said his boys are in high spirits going into the 5th series which begins Monday.

"Everybody is happy that we made the show yesterday," he said. "We hope to carry this feeling into the finals."

Largely eclipsed by the headline-hogging rivalry between San Beda and Letran, PCU quietly kept within striking distance of the leaders before outlasting everybody's conviction by closing out with five victories.

Gabby Espinas, the league's Rookie MVP member in 2004, played a key role in PCU's turnaround drive as he spearheaded the hard-working crew of undergrads Jason Castro, Jimmy Beltran and Jun Lucero.

"It's good to see the good Shalim because Sam Shalim and PCU play different types of basketball," said Shalim. "But definitely the finals series is going to be close."

ALL EYES will be on Letran Gabriel Espinas of PCU and San Beda's Nigerian standout Samuel Dalembert on Monday's match.

Top two UAAP coaches laugh off pressure

Monday's Game

Ateneo vs. Adamson, 2 p.m.

Ateneo's Norman Black and Adamson's Franz Pumaren, the former top point guard of Purefoods in the PBA.

"I know how it's like to play when there's a lot at stake," said Pumaren. The PBA's third all-time assist leader.

Both coaches are confident their teams have their backcourt and interior issues ironed out after recent young rounds going into the final four.

"You know rolling by players like Smith

top can replace hard work," said Pumaren. "We can't be complacent even if we have the more or less advantage. I have to remind them that we have to stick to our system.

"For now, the focus is to keep them healthy, to keep them focused, and to make sure they have fresh legs," said Black. "It's important that we stay sharp, but we don't feel the pressure yet."

STI, Amacu start Finals duel

GAME TODAY | Rizal Memorial
11 a.m.—STI vs AMACU (Quirico V.)

TO BE SURE, NOTHING BETWEEN TWO TOP contenders officially ended when STI and AMA Computer collided today in Game 1 of the Nissans basketball finals series at the Rizal Memorial.

The two teams have contended from the start of University of Manila's roundball season and other survived finals newcomer San Sebastian Recoletos Colts to eventually square off in the best of three championship.

Of the two squads, however, the Olympians are the strongest in the finals. They fared this thanks to the title series last season, 1987's fifth straight before it lost key players.

Dependence will be on the side of STI which boasts of a solid backcourt with Chedel Perez at the helm. Perez helped the Olympians' 122-2 top record in the eliminations. More Anthony Reyes

Alabang thumps Madrid, forges 4-way tie for lead

SMOKE LIFT—ALABANG'S ALVARO ANASTRE (L) and lead overnight rival leader Madrid Shotgun del Sur), 2-1. Is a matter of hour only leaders of top team after four rounds of the UAAP National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Drama Team Championships Friday at the atrium of Lanang Mall here. Tied with Alabang at 3-1 points apiece were defending champion Davao Tagaytay City, Cotabato Municipal del Sur Local Government City Tagaytay City judged Carmona (Kanga-del Sur), 2-1-0-5. Through the courtesy of SM Sun Antonio, Edmundo Gabat and Mon Macale. Zamora City skipped Tagaytay del Sur), 2-1-1-4. Bronze City skipped Carmona's victory against Davao Luzon. The three other teams ended in lower slots. Bernard Ayala and Ferdinand Jiménez, the MP representatives to the Cebu Asian Games, batted 4th Bank's Joel Mel Mendoza-Rioja, meanwhile, by journalist Alabang for today. Rhoda Bacarisas, Zamboanga

Model-TV host joins Ford Focus Cup cast at BRC

KARMANCA

Dalisayan, who aims to follow in the footsteps of his racing champion father Boyet Dalisayan, as well as GP Dilmon student George Francisco, Jonathan Cheng, Toni Tanedo, Jeff Reyes and Matthew Edmonds and car design chief Warren Agojo.

The series, which serves as the kick-off competition debut of the Ford Focus, is supported by Jubler Mobile, Rhino, Shell, Mitsubishi Automotive, Bell Home Items, Oakley, Tradewinds, Starbright Bedding, Speedtown, Motor-Sport Inc., G Magazine, Subaru and Toyota.

RP's Soltan fights in Russia

MALAKAS DOMINGO ACCOMPANYING MEL

Overnight King Stanislaw Dethe Soltan in Russian Arthur Ochanov in a non-title junior middleweight grudge fight Saturday at the Kremlin Palace of Sports Khimki in Moscow, Russia. Soltan will try to redeem himself from the defeat to Ochan, who earned his UNBA title via a third-round knockout early this year. Soltan knocked Ochan in the third stage but most of the fight anyway. The Filipino boxer is confident that it's champion knows is a new title bout. He like to score an early knockout. Ochanov, a Russian Olympian, is confident he can knock out Soltan in the fourth round, coming to prove that his first victory was no fluke.

Big SJC staglest gets going

MOVE YOUR BUSINESS UP A NOTCH ON THE BOARD is the Stephen's Sting Derby" starting at 9 a.m. today at the Santa Ana Golf Course with Singapore Consultant 2006 as the venue site. To be hosted by Seniors Sty of Students, this one-day adventure among the country's fathers is the crowd-lighting complex a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Up some 150 golfers are set, with 100 slots available only to cash big events at the Board of Directors Cup. For inquiries, call 725-0305 or 776-8685.

SPORTSWATCH

Stag Fest lures 103 entries

A PHOTO POST OF PCSO GAMEBOARD, OF 52 STAG in the 2006 edition of Shotgun Mega Stocks by Stag Fest held Sunday, starting at 8 a.m. 28, 30 and 38. The single affirmation of Shotgun is sponsored by Lafayette Drug Inc. and "Tanduay Distillers Inc. of Tanduay Mega. 103 marksmen reservations have been received. Some participants are finishing two or three entries, and team Body Liguro who pegged the army has at P50,000. Screening of stags will continue to mornings. For inquiries, call 897-2575 or 810-9008.

Anniversary derby today

THE SAN JUAN GOLFERS' MILL HOLD ITS 47TH anniversary derby today by staging a "Golden Mile One-Under Affair" featuring 72 lights at the course of PAFGC Filipino Avenue, Makati City. Action starts at 7 a.m. Today's P1,000,000 event will be hosted by PCSO Gameboard, PCSO Lotto Fourth, P1,000, 9th, P1,000 and Lotto 6/42 jackpot, P4,000. For inquiries, call 896-3414 or 896-3815.

TIGER Woods' winning streak grinds to a halt.

Shaun tames Tiger

Furyk, Els also out of Match Play

SHAUN Micheel plays another role in yesterday's...

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—US RYDER CUP TEAM MATES Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk suffered shock defeats in the first round of the World Match Play Championship on Thursday.

World number one Woods, who arrived at Wentworth on the back of a remarkable run of five successive tournament wins, wielded a cold putter throughout the 36-hole match as he lost 4 & 3 to fellow American Shaun Micheel.

"He did what he needed to do," Woods said ruefully. "I felt like I hit the ball pretty decently, I just didn't make any putts.

"Only (bogey) putt I really made was on the second hole of the afternoon round. I had my chances, I just had a hard time with the pace and I wasn't sure I could read the greens."

Furyk, elevated to second in the world after his victory at the Canadian Open last week, also slumped to a 4 & 3 defeat by Robert Karlsson.

Swede Karlsson, who will make his debut in the Ryder Cup next week, birdied each of the four par-three holes in his eight-under par morning round of 64, a feat achieved only twice before in the championship.

Briton Paul Casey marked his debut in the event by hitting an 8-under 64 en route to an impressive nine-hole but unchanged through his match to down world number six Retief Goosen, 4 & 3.

Nine Ryder Cup Captain Michael Campbell, last year's champ, beat Gregory Bourdy, 3 & 2, while Colin Montgomerie was defeated David Howell one up.

Brian Gay began of a record seventh World Match Play title were ended by Argentina's Angel Cabrera, 2 & 1.

Canadian Mike Weir entered double-figure holes Scott, 3 & 2, while Britain Luke Donald put out Tim Clark of South Africa two up.

Woods, making his second appearance at Wentworth eight years after he was beaten in the final by Mark O'Meara, went toe-to-toe with a par from at the first but Micheel fired three straight birdies from the third.

Micheel, the 2003 US PGA champ, went round in 70 while Woods took 10 putts in his level-par 72. Reuters

Thompson up by 2 shots; Wie sputters anew with 77

JUSTIN Rose reacts to a bad chip shot...

SAMMAMISH, Washington—Nicholas Thompson matched his career-low 9-under 63 on Thursday to take the lead in the PGA 84 Lumber Classic at Michelle Wie Invitational week down in the state.

Thompson, a tour rookie, nabbed an birdies in the first seven holes on his way to an eight-under-54.

He held a two-shot lead over a half-dozen players after the first round in the $1.6 million tournament.

"I can't say much bad about my round. I hit one poor shot and had two three-putts," said the 23-year-old from Florida, who was a member of last year's victorious United States Walker Cup team.

Will MacKenzie, Greg Bruch, Robert Gamez, Ted Purdy, Ben Curtis and South African Rory Sabbatini (-6) posted 66 to share second.

While the fans seemed to be plentiful at Idyllic Rock, manager Wie had trouble finding them.

She struggled to a five-over 77 in her 11th start via professional men's events.

The 16-year-old did not make a single birdie, her her performance was better than her opening 78 at last week's Champions Invitational.

Thompson's hot start was cooled off with three-putt bogeys at the eighth and ninth holes, before he rebounded with an eagle, three birdies and a bogey on the back nine. AFP

368 teams competing in Orchard Founders

REGISTRATION IS UNDER WAY for the 18th edition of The Orchard Founders Golf Invitational slated Nov. 25 to 26 at the The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

The 368 annual members-only golf tournament will have 368 teams playing 36 holes over four days at the Gary Player and Arnold Palmer courses. There will be two daily shotgun starts at 6:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

The Stableford scoring system will be used with stroke play at the Palmer Course and best-ball at the Player Course.

The early major sponsors include Sta. Lucia Realty, Globe Platinum, Milcom and BMW Premium Sole sponsors are HSBC and Security Diners.

Orchard general manager Nino Caycedo said that aside from the hole-in-one prize—a BMW 116 and a business class roundtrip ticket to Silver Coast courtesy of Asiana Airlines—a bonanza of appliances, golf equipment and foreign travel awaits a total of P7.2 million worth the participants at the cocktails Nov. 23 and 24 and the Awards Night on Nov. 26. Entry fee per team is P8,000.

US, Spain lady cagers rip foes

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—TINA THOMPSON scored 19 points and Candace Parker added 17 to lead two-time defending champion United States, 90-66, over Russia on Thursday and send it to the second round of basketball's Women's World Championship with no defeats in its opening games.

It was Russia's first loss, while the Americans finished their second playing group C.

Spain outscored Brazil, 31-9, in the final quarter and rallied to beat Brazil, 67-66. Amaya Valdemoro led Spain with 19 points, while Brazil's Iziane dos Santos had 18.

Argentina got 25 points from Cecilia Virgo to notch its second straight win, 83-61, over South Korea.

The results finished Argentina atop Group A in first round play just ahead of Brazil and Spain, who all had identical 2-1 records.

The Czech Republic rolled over Taiwan, 93-72. It was the Czechs' second straight win after an opening loss point loss to France.

Cuba downed France, 78-73.

The Czechs finished atop Group D, followed by the French and Cuba.

Lithuania, which lost its first game by forfeit in Australia because the team arrived late due to bureaucratic problems, downed Belarus, 69-57. AP

PROTAGONISTS: Mario Antonio Barrera (left) and Ricardo Juarez face off after a news conference in Las Vegas, Thursday. They will dispute the WBC featherweight title Saturday.

Jones withdraws from World Cup

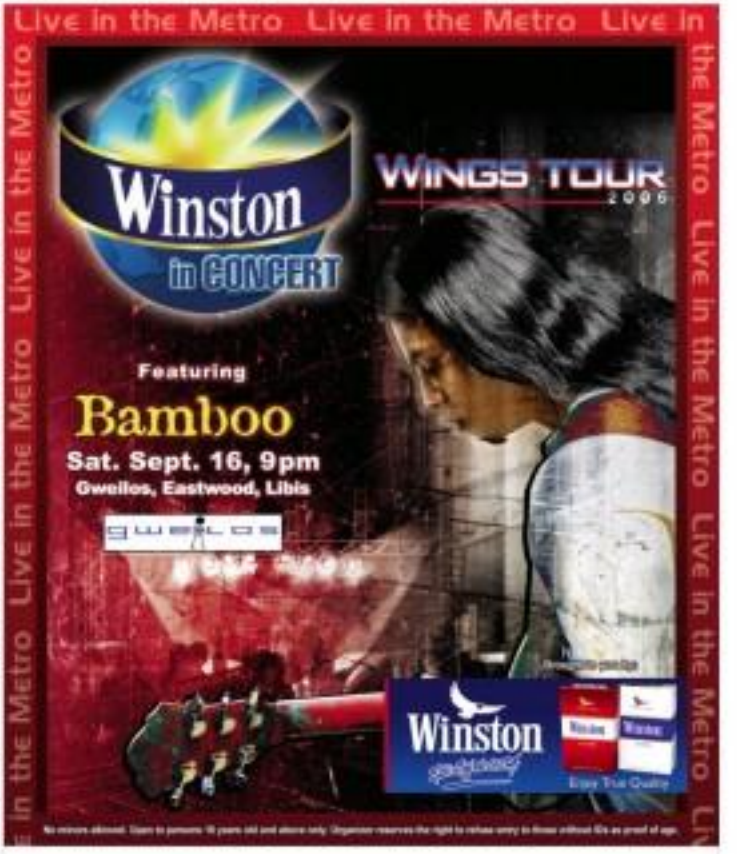
PHOENIX—MARION JONES PULLED OUT of the weekend's World Cup in Athletics in Athens and won't race again this season.

The five-time Olympic medalist said her withdrawing wasn't good enough for her to compete as a top level after running more than a month of competition following her positive test for the banned endurance-enhancer EPO. The 30-year-old sprinter was cleared to run again when her second sample turned negative.

"I was in top condition when my season was interrupted more than three weeks ago by the leak of my positive 'A' sample," Jones said in a statement released by lawyer Rick Nichols Thursday.

"I was ready but missed top August competitions in Zurich, Monaco and Brussels, and it has been more than six weeks since I raced," she said.

Her coach, Steve Riddick, had said all along it would be better for Jones to call it quits for the season, then train hard, aiming for next year's world championships in Osaka, Japan. AP



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Spring-NBC Cup gets going

Cotta open defense vs Braves as twinbill kicks off regional caging

GAMES TODAY
1 p.m.—Opening ceremony
2 p.m.—Tagaytay Spring Olive Athletes
vs.—TBA
—TBA

KLEBERSAN, NORTH COTABATO—Veterans and young stars pit their skills today with the opening of the National Basketball Conference, the country's premier regional caging.

Billed as the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup, the tournament starts with a doubleheader pitting defending champion Olympic Corp. against host North Cotabato at 9 a.m. and Tagaytay Spring Oil against Siberia at 2 o'clock at the open-sided roofed gym here.

The opening ceremonies starts at 1 p.m.

Based on their entry, the Cotta Underjuggers of Mayor Herminio Encipong Aperocho is the team to beat. But their eight-loss their bench fall against few Master Pilipit, and team manager Mayor Eliza Pilipit North Cotabato Barrio, who have recruited ex-pros Tonyboy Espinosa and Jerry Fernandez in the offensive.

Olympic, showing less celebrities in local, will reform this reigning MVP Marlon Basco, Rahil Limgon, Dave Cotton, Bruce Jocia, Lyn-Bon-ng nad Christian Medes.

"We look forward to another successful conference," said CNBC president Hadenodo "Tao" Sudilla. The league's executive vice-president, Tagaytay Mayor Bienfel Tolentino, is likewise optimistic, saying "more PBA stalwards could come from the provincial cup of players."

Five NBC doubleers mark it to different PBA teams in the last rookie draft. They are Rhil Magnaoded, NIC Cawaco, Magnaro Mendoroz, Nonpy Davle and Oliver Ongking.

Spring Oil Tagaytay is favored over the Valencia Golden Harvest in the opener of the tourney presented by Shikishi Lines and supported by Molders and Ramon's Spring Mineral Water.

The tournament's other teams are Bacolod Brahman Cream-line Asses, Tuba Inglis, Koronel Tapiak, Hagadhai Lapanto, Laguna Pennerbay Bakuna and Davao Cebu.

After a single-round classification, teams from seventh to 10th places will clash in two solid-card matches with the winners joining the fourth- and fifth-placers in facing the "winners-bracket"-assured top four squads in the quarterfinals.

Four teams will then advance to the semifinals, where the No. 1 seed faces No. 4 and No. 2 and 3 clash in separate best-of-three series. The winners will collide in another best-of-three series for the title.

COO

TEE

Coo, Tee gain W. Cup nat'l finals

SOUTHPAW ABBEY GAISO COLD SHOOTER Markwin Tee and former World Bowler of the Year Wong Coo led the second set of recent qualifiers for the national finals of the 2006 Bowling World Cup.

Tee fired a 12-game series of 2888 pinfalls at Mt Megamall while Mr Coo, now the Philippine Bowling Congress' management committee chair, rolled 2735 in 10 games at Gateroads to earn a chance to represent the country in the World Cup national finals set in Shreveport, on Nov. 8-12.

The elite men's qualifiers for the Cards (CPU, Patrick Ubando (2181), Al Scissor (2171), Mike Sarmiento (2160), Edgar Serrano (2151), Jason Salita (2151), Peter Sanz (2140), Manuel Jose (2125), Pedro Pelaez (2082), Jun Gaston (2046), Federico Gaston (2042), Ollie Marte Ubando (2040), Neil Olayon (2032), Rudy Dagday (2001), Jimmy Espino (2000), Xenon Ferguson (1972), Chino Mesa (1950), Nelson Marchesa (1936), Aly Vargas (1928), Emanuel Lara (1919), Dennis Rivera (1917), Jimmy Nuevo (1917), Francis de Leon (1892), Ken Ignacio (1891), El Tuan (1886), Samuel Gay (1880), Dimitar Gerasimov (1853), Noel Ruel (1836), Jeff Sison (1816), Raoul Iskanda (1769), Jeff Chan (1759), Rovilo Lucero (1682), Mikey Mesia (1647), Oliver Alcid (1639), Nelson Marchesa (1636), Jesse Kumar (1564), Jonathan Tengco (1491), Oliver Fernando (1280), and Gary Salonen (1253).

Gabi fights in Barrera card against still unknown foe

Gabbi Now Paunlaurel is raring to go

FILIPINO DECHIDAD GABI SILVERIAN SAID he was sure of dishing out a clear act in Las Vegas when he fights in the undercard of the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez rematch in recovery at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

But Gabi, seeking a follow-up to his knockout win in Las Vegas last month, has a dilemma. His opponent has remained unknown at press time.

Tomorrow's fight will be Gabi's first under his own promotional group, the Golden Boy Promotions of Oscar De la Hoya, and his first under manager-trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach, however, assured Philboxing.com's Ed De la Vega that Gabi will definitely fight and is using to display his talent before his own countrymen.

Gabi, who set foot on the City Thursday is coming off an impressive first-round technical knockout win over former world champion Mauricio Pastrano on aug. 18, his first since being clopped by IBF-IBO flyweight king Yuri Foreman.

Soon after the Barrera-Juarez fight, Gabi hooked up with Roach, and then inked a deal with De la Hoya's group. Robert L. Lagunilla, Contributor

72 pairs dispute Mizuno Scramble at Eagle Ridge

THE MIZUNO SCRAMBLE GOLF Classic moves to the giant Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club course in Gen. Trias, Cavite, today with 72 teamers in the hunt for golfers' find to clash holiday packages to Japan.

Venue of the tournament is the Greg Norman layout, one of the best championship and all-weather courses of Eagle Ridge.

The tournament's final roster of amateur contenders comes is the biggest so far in the series around the year by Mizuno through its local distributor Metro Sports Corp.

The field will depose the three divisions (Men—Junior vs. average handicaps—and Ladies to date finals next year at the Apalo Greenfield Estates course in Laguna.

The finals make an all-expense paid trip to Japan plus five days to watch the Mizuno JGA Classic where Asuka Inomotoya and the rest of the world's top players are expected to compete.

The Eagle Ridge tourney follows elimination steps at the Valley Golf and Country Club's south course in Antipolo and the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Tanay Montreal, Cavite.

The Riviera at the Riviera, Caviar Filipino Pagoda, HMV Philippines and Philippine Airlines are the major sponsors of the Mizuno Scramble Classic. The other sponsors are Inspire Golf, Citibank, Hakkaben, Bernie Barber Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, SMART Allen, Power Bar, Orbitz Chips, C-Limit Power and Gold Digest Philippines.

Eagle Ridge unscheduled participants since today's event also serves as members' monthly tournament. Trophies and Mizuno items will be awarded to the winners.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul C. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Mariano

7-mo OFW remittances up 15.8% to $7B

In July alone, transfers through bank channels rose 18.4% to $1.05B

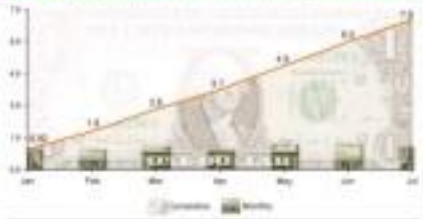
IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Bank** loans up 4.3% to P1.6T in July /B2

■ **Getting** OFWs and their families to save, invest /B3

■ **Transco** auction moved anew /B5

OFW remittances (January to July 2006, in billion US$)



By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS through banks rose 15.8 percent from a year earlier to $7 billion in the first seven months of 2006, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported.

For the month of July alone, the remittances of the country's huge work force abroad shot up by 18.4 percent to $1.05 billion from a year ago, the BSP said.

July also marked the third consecutive month that remittances had breached the billion-dollar figure.

The BSP attributed the consistent inflows to the rising demand for Filipino workers and improving access to commercial banks and the services of private remittance agents.

The BSP data do not include money sent through informal channels by the more than eight million Filipinos—a tenth of the country's population—working in various parts of the world.

OFW remittances from January to July poured in from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

The BSP likewise noted a remarkable growth in remittances from other countries such as Canada, which increased by 190.7 percent; Taiwan, which rose 30.3 percent; and Singapore, which was up 22.7 percent.

Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration or new hires and rehires, the BSP said total deployment of overseas workers in July grew by 4.1 percent to 102,395, buoyed by higher demand for both sea-based and land-based OFWs.

In particular, the deployment of land-based workers in July showed a significant increase of 55.4 percent, recovering from the consecutive declines posted since April this year, the BSP reported.

But the BSP added that demand for new

>>>> OFW, B2

World's 5th largest mining firm drawn to Diwalwal gold rush site

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-RUN NATIONAL RESOURCES MINING Development Corp. (NRMDC) is seeking a joint venture partner to develop the Diwalwal gold mining project that may require at least $75 million to develop.

The NRMDC, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is set to bid out the project before the year ends, as an move as it completes a feasibility study detailing the mineral reserves of the Diwalwal gold site situated in the Compostela Valley bordering Davao and South Cotabato.

According to the NRMDC's initial estimates, the site is expected to have a mine life of 20 years.

Already, the gold site has drawn the attention of Hanaway Gold Mining Co. Ltd., the world's fifth-biggest gold producer.

Both have expressed their keen interest to invest in the country's mining sector.

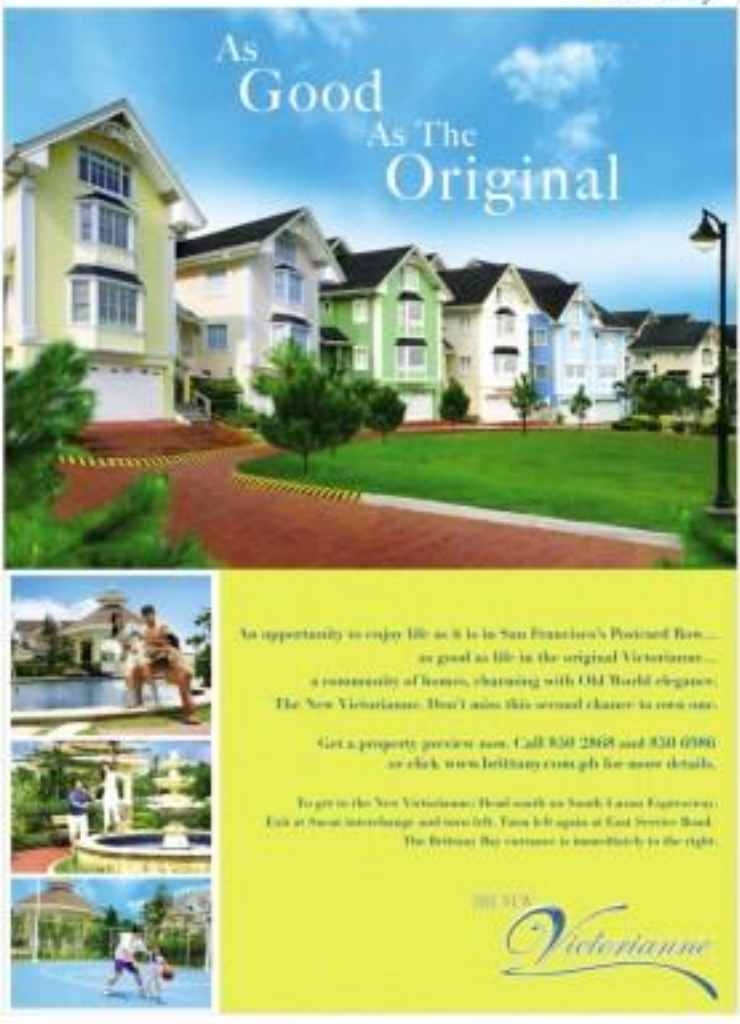
Greg Job, manager of the new business and exploration unit of the South African firm, said he visited earlier this week the Mt. Diwalwal site, which gained notoriety as a gold rush area about twenty years ago.

In the 1980s, Diwalwal was a mining town with more than 20,000 people operating illegal small-scale mines.

Job believes that development of the site may entail $150 million in investments.

According to NRMDC president Antonio Unite, interested investors from Australia, Chi-

>>>> B4



Bank loans up 4.3% to ₱1.6T in July

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING BY COMMERCIAL banks picked up by 4.3 percent to ₱1.61 trillion in July, more or less, from a year ago. This also represents a turnaround from a 0.6-percent contraction in the previous month.

In a report, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that on a month-to-month basis, the banks' outstanding loans also increased by 1.8 percent, following a 2.5-percent drop noted in the previous month.

The BSP said the improvement in bank lending was driven mainly by the growth in loans to the financial institutions, real estate and business services sector (12.6 percent), and the community, social and personal services sector (13.8 percent). Other sectors that also recorded more lending were wholesale and retail trade (1 percent) and mining and quarrying (0.1 percent).

However, lending declined in other key sectors such as construction (-14.9 percent), manufacturing (-7.6 percent), electricity, gas and water (-57.2 percent), and transportation, storage and communication (-4.4 percent).

"The stronger growth in bank lending may be attributed in part to the supporting trend in commercial banks' quasi-banking loan units, which grew by ₱7.17 percent of the loan portfolio in July 2006 from 7.22 percent in the previous month and 5.54 percent in the same period last year," the BSP reported.

Banks also took advantage of the booming property sector by hiking their lending and investment exposure in real estate by 3.4 percent in the second quarter, reversing the 2 percent contraction seen in the first quarter.

The unsecured banking sector's real estate exposure in the form of loans and securities amounted to ₱213.2 billion at end-June against the ₱203.3 billion posted in end-March. The growth stems from the ₱7.2 billion accounting to ₱7.2 billion, offsetting the ₱200 million cut in investments in securities issued by real estate companies. Two universal banks accounted for 61.0 percent of the ₱7.2 billion growth in the industry's real estate loans.

Recent studies indicated that the property market had been recovering from the slump caused by the Asian currency crisis of 1997. The recovery the studies indicated, was fueled by strong foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipinos, demand from companies engaged in business process outsourcing and the growing popularity of condominiums living.

The BSP's latest quarterly report on banks' real estate exposure showed that lending in this sector expanded by 1.9 percent to ₱193.5 billion in end-June from ₱190.1 billion in the previous quarter. As such, the ratio of real estate loans to total outstanding loans rose to 11.7 percent during the quarter from 11.6 percent in the previous quarter.

Biggest growth noted in real estate, services sectors

Manila Pen ₱508-M renovation gets perks

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS APPROVED the granting of perks to Manila Peninsula Inc.'s hotel modernization project worth ₱508.02 million.

The project involves the renovation of the 249 rooms of the hotel's Makati Tower, including support facilities.

This represents half of The Peninsula's total renovation in Asia. It now has the same number of rooms as the renovated Beverly Wilshire, and the ballrooms—Regencia, Isaac (with Rebajon and Balmes).

The company has had three registrations with the BOI—in 1991, 1996 and 1998—each involving modernization projects.

The Peninsula Manila is run by The Peninsula and Shanghai Hotels Ltd., which has other hotels in New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Bangkok, Beijing, Shanghai as well as another one in Tokyo which will open in 2007.

The BOI said the kind of project was qualified for registration since it involved tourism accommodation facilities, to serve as listed under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan.

Also, the project met given pioneer criteria due to the huge amount of investment, which was more than five times the minimum required for hotel modernization project, which is ₱50 million.

Pioneer status qualifies the project/entity to avail itself of a tax holiday of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital products as well as other fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

The project also complements efforts of the tourism department to drum up foreign investments.

One of the pioneering matters that the Department of Tourism is working on is mainland China, which had been the Philippines' fastest-growing tourist market.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano had said recently that China is expected to post a record of almost 10 times its usual earnings and six times more than any of the country's other markets.

Romel M. Domingo

SMART INTERNET MICRO-BUSINESS
Sen. Mar Roxas tries out the SmartBro wireless broadband service during the opening of Robinsons Magnaye while Myla Villanueva, the event's cochair, looks on. The event is a one-stop IT business expo encouraging would-be entrepreneurs to an different technology solutions and services to grow their business. Smart Bro Computer Stations is a postgraduation program that offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to set up small internet PC stations/businesses using Smart's wireless broadband technology.

Swap of Metro Pacific shares for new firm's shares proposed

By Elizabeth L. Sandoz

METRO PACIFIC CORP. A UNIT OF HOMO Kong giant First Pacific Co. Ltd., is proposing a swap of its shares for those of debt-free holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. which will replace MPIC as listed firm, said MPIC corporate information officer David Ruppert.

The proposal has yet to be approved by corporate regulators.

Under the proposal, every four MPIC shares will get 1 MPIC share plus three warrants, which will give the holders the right to buy MPIC shares in the future at a certain price.

MPIC will initially hold 51 percent of profitable real estate firm Land Realty Corp., MPIC said, while the rest will be in the hands of others.

MPIC is currently undergoing a capital restructuring which will reduce its issued and outstanding shares by 28.1 billion to 552.8 million shares from 1.9 billion.

As a result, 28 MPIC shares will be consolidated into 1 MPIC share. This means that a stockholder who holds 28 common shares with a par value of ₱1.00 each will now have five common shares with the same par value.

At yesterday's closing price of ₱3.60, MPIC shares are valued at 10 centavos after taking into account a consolidation ratio of 28:1.

MPIC's corporate reorganization that will preempt the transfer of its shares and its properties assets to MPIC, which will later be listed on the stock exchange to replace MPIC upon completion of the reorganization.

The new holding company is envisioned to become the corporate vehicle that will be tasked with expanding MPIC's real estate business through Landco, raise new capital from existing and new investors and make new investments in infrastructure.

The reorganization involves three steps. The first involves the reduction of MPIC's capital stock and the swap of its shares for MPIC shares. It will also include the sale of a 51 percent stake in Landco to MPIC.

In the second stage, the newly formed MPIC will make a tender offer to MPIC shareholders subject to the approval of regulators. At the same time, MPIC will be in share in the PSE while MPIC will withdraw its listing. At this stage, MPIC will directly own a majority of Landco and MEC.

MPIC, for its part, will continue to exist as a private company and will own shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. and other local investment companies.

Under the third phase, P2.7 billion in new capital will be raised through a rights issue. MPIC said it signed an agreement with British investment firm Ashmore Global Opportunities Fund for the latter to invest in MPIC by way of rights assigned by the First Pacific Group.

Once the rights issue is completed this month, MPIC will have a total capital of P4.1 billion.

GOINGS-ON

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SEMINAR ON THE USE of Voice Over Internet Protocol calling presented by iquiring Filipino entrepreneurs during the First Philippine Momentum Plus VoIP Business Opportunity Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the SM Megamall, Mega Trade Conference Center.

Guest speakers will be Alex Sevilla, CEO and founder of First Philippine Momentum Plus.

The event's morning session starts at 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., while the afternoon session will start at 3 p.m. to end at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will be taught how to utilize the newly formed homemade web-internet connected, and garner opportunity to earn dollars.

For inquiries and reservations, call or text James Bautista at 0920-5388887.

Benigi Foton exec in BP

DINAMAT ALCANTARA JR. OF THE 1985 UNIversity of the Philippines Diliman graduating class has been appointed president of Foton Philippines Corp., a manufacturer of heavy trucks and buses.

Foton Philippines Corp. is a joint venture between Benigi Group of Companies and Beijing Foton Motor Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Beijing Motors.

Completely knocked down (CKD) units of Foton vehicles are brought into the country for assembly at the Benigi Group of Companies plants in Bautista, Pangasinan.

Alcantara, who has been in the Philippine automotive industry since 2003, is also the chairman of Foton Philippines Corp.

Before joining Foton, he was president of Isuzu Philippines Corp. and vice president of Benigi Motor Corp.

Alcantara graduated from UP with a degree in Business Economics. He also finished his Master in Business Administration from the Asian Institute of Management.

IMF seeks stronger support from members

SINGAPORE—THE INTERNational Monetary Fund and World Bank's joint annual meetings are back in Asia for the first time since the currency turmoil of 1997, with the region's economies rowing to be more attuned to new global realities.

The IMF/Banking back from attention-overs to relevance in the world's fastest growing region, resulting the 184 member-countries to meet in Singapore for the annual meeting to discuss governance. It has also vowed to boost its surveillance and crisis prevention capabilities.

The World Bank, for its part, give its assurance that it would not cut back on its development lending alongside its console spillover issues.

"The international community is a globalized economy has a very important role to play not only in crisis resolution but also in crisis prevention and surveillance," De Rato said.

The IMF member-countries were urged to improve on increases in quota, or financial contribution to the IMF, of four under representated countries (calculated on the basis of their economy), —China, Korea, Mexico and Turkey. The IMF wants members to commit to a broader reform of the quota distribution process within the next two years.

Before the world opening meetings, De Rato said the IMF would be able to come up with a more concrete framework for the proposed new instrument that shall provide liquidity for emerging markets with strong fundamentals but remained vulnerable to shocks.

He, a meantime, joins in calling World Bank president Paul Wol-

BFB

Getting OFWs and their families to save, invest

Philam Life embarks on financial literacy program

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT'S A SAD REFRAIN THAT SOUNDS all too familiarly heard much too often.

It's the one about overseas Filipino workers working abroad—away from home and family—for many years, only to find themselves going home to the same financial rut they were in before they left.

One of the reasons is that they just do not know what to do with their money to ensure that they and their families will have enough to live on when their contracts expire.

This is where Philam Life, one of the country's leading insurance companies, comes in through its financial literacy and wealth management program.

Under the program, Philam Life teaches OFWs basic financial concepts during the pre-departure seminar required by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Philam Life even produced a 12-minute video to show the OFWs the value of setting aside a portion of their hard-earned money as savings, and not give in to the temptation of spending everything on appliances or clothes.

OFW Family day in Batangas City.

Basic lessons

Company executive vice president Gloria Hontiveros Hollweck told the press in an interview that through these activities, Philam Life was also able to help in the government's campaign to increase savings among Filipinos, especially OFWs who remit $12 billion a year to the economy.

"What we want is for OFWs to prioritize their expenses because there are really a lot of uncertainties that they face," Hollweck said.

One of Philam Life's first lessons to the OFWs is to set their goals and think about what they want to achieve with their money. By doing so, they learn about simple budgeting and the relationship between their savings and their expenses.

The insurance firm also counts on OFWs which investments are good and which are merely get-rich-quick schemes disguised as investment programs.

Because they lack knowledge on financial instruments and they are perceived to have ready cash, OFWs are prime targets of these unscrupulous businessmen.

Hollweck said that by learning more about the legitimate investment opportunities in the market, OFWs would no longer be victimized by scams such as pyramiding schemes.

OFWs are made to realize that it's whether cassava tea good to be true, then it is.

Go slow on spending

In the process of discussing the topics of investments and savings, Philam Life people tell OFWs to go slow on purchasing big-ticket items such as jewelry and expensive cars when they are still in the saving stage.

"We try to convince them that these items can wait and that they should set aside for what they really need such as land, shelter and education," Hollweck said.

Hollweck said the company also tried to reach the OFWs to diversify their investments and that there were other ways to protect their money aside from putting them in a bank.

"They can also try buying stocks, mutual funds, insurance and putting their money in different savings avenues," Hollweck said.

Even the families left behind by the OFWs are taken ahead of.

Philam Life holds the Philam Life Family Day twice a year, where 30 to 300 OFW families are treated to free medical check-ups, medicine, raffle, games, free overseas calls and wealth management seminars.

By giving the family members the same financial tools, it is hoped that they will take better care of the money sent home by their loved ones.

He said the OFW beneficiaries were being made to realize that they should not put too much pressure on the breadwinners.

Partnership with OFWA

Hollweck said Philam Life entered into partnership with OFWA about two years ago because it realized that the OFWs needed help in planning their finances.

The company has expanded the program to include high school students, through a partnership with the Department of Education.

The primary aim is to inculcate among students the value of savings and the role that even a small savings account plays in nation-building.

"The challenge is to communicate these concepts of savings to the students and their parents so that these values are reinforced," he said.

The campaign is good for Philam Life's business in the long run as the additional knowledge will likely lead to additional purchases of insurance products.

"We realize that for us to broaden our services to the fullest, we have to be involved in education," Hollweck said.

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IMF seeks stronger support from members

Bretton Woods institutions

Rodrigo B1

Suzuki said that over the last 10 years, the bank had been "less prescriptive" and "more open" in its dealings with various nations.

"We've said that we have to calibrate (bank) conditions on the fact that we can't subvert the values of our countries," Wolfowitz said.

He said a new strategy paper on governance and anticorruption to be released by the bank in October will show that "we're already moving better instead of feeling a reason to cut back on lending."

"Money is needed, resources are needed—but it needs to go in the right places. We can't afford to simply turn a blind eye when we see encounter corruption in our projects," he said.

Transparency International, a global movement dedicated to fighting corruption, welcomed Wolfo pro-active approach to combat corruption but called on the bank to demonstrate the highest standards of transparency and accountability in its own backyard.

As part of its advocacy, TI urged "stronger actions to ensure the accountability of project implementing agencies" as well as exercise of greater oversight and attention to "red flags" and transparency requirements.

"Powerful risk mitigation tools such as integrity pacts, reporters' rules and requirements that bidders have antibribery programs should be fostered. Sanctions should also be continued and publicized against corrupt contractors, following independent investigation conducted according to high standards and provisions for possible appeals," TI said in a position paper.

In the meantime, the IMF-WB meetings were marred by a dispute over Singapore's decision to pro-hibit the entry of representatives from nongovernment organizations and even some from the media, even those already accredited by the IMF-WB to attend the meetings, which are held outside their hometown Washington DC every three years. Doris C. Bumatay

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Exporters urge BSP to act on peso rise

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS HAVE RENEWED CALLS for the government to act on the continued strengthening of the peso against the US dollar, saying market speculators could be behind the upbeat dollar threatening the core in the country's export earnings.

Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., urged the Bangko Sentral to get at the bottom of the peso's continued strengthening and adopt corrective measures as it had been doing whenever the peso was suspected to be under attack.

Ortiz-Luis said exporters recognized the importance of a strong currency on the overall economy. However, he said, the price strengthening to less than 52 to the dollar would make the export business less viable.

Earlier this year, Philexport had raised the alarm when the peso rose to 52 for a dollar from about 56, where it had been for the past two years.

Yesterday, Ortiz-Luis noted that the peso was hovering just above 50.40, and had threatened to breach the level earlier this month.

"While it is true that a strong peso benefits some segments of the economy, it is badly hurting indigenous exports from that area dedicated to local raw materials," he said.

Philexport chief explained that such types of export businesses—including fresh and processed food manufacturers, handicrafts and furniture makers, among others—employ nearly 2Mlo—are scattered into the country's largest employers.

The closure of these businesses could mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs," he warned.

"At the rising peso keeps, the overall performance of the export industry—which had pulled off a 16 percent growth in the first half of the year—may slowdown," Ortiz-Luis said.

He said the peso's strength against the dollar has been traditionally limited since it is good for the economy.

"It's not import, however, is that it encouraged the growth of imports and export index, whether used imported raw materials like garments, machine parts and electronics," he said.

Via the other hand, domestic manufacturing, agriculture and indigenous exports are wanted by a policy of keeping the peso strong," he added.

TRO on sin tax law seen to cost gov't P3B

ON THE GOOD SHIP VEGA
Officials of NTT WE Marine Corp., a submarine cable maintenance provider of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., take part in christening the cable ship Vega. From right, NTT WE Marine Corp. president Hirohiko Takase, Atsushi Kobayashi, Ryan Margo, Capt. Victorio Agas, and chief engineer Samuel Gonzalez—seated in the control of the cable ship, which is owned by PLDT. The submarine cable maintenance provider is now offering its services to other customers in the Asia-Pacific.

Agencies hard pressed to collect expected gains

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ESTIMATES that the government could stand to lose at least P3 billion in potential duty revenues this year should the temporary restraining order on the sin tax law hold sway for the rest of the year.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said in a report that the TRO imposed by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court in May last year was the main reason why the government could not collect on the expected gains from the sin tax law.

The law was implemented in January last year.

The sin tax law, or Republic Act No. 9334, raised the excise tax rates slapped on so-called sin products, such as cigarettes and alcohol.

The TRO hindered the law's implementation in turn, where most cigarette and alcohol imports are shipped, through the Subic Bay Freeport, are considered to be outside Philippine territory.

In response, the Office of the Solicitor General, which represents the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance, filed an appeal with the Supreme Court.

Citing Section No. 218 of the National Internal Revenue Code, the OSG argued that a court could not stop the government from collecting taxes.

The Supreme Court also cleared that the sin tax law helped the Bureau of Customs to raise nearly P300-million worth of additional excise tax collections in the first semester.

The figure represented an 82-percent shortfall from the P2.25-billion worth of additional taxes expected to be collected under the sin tax law, Beltran said in a report.

The government originally projected that the sin tax law would help the government collect P9 billion worth of additional excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol this year.

The amount is split in half, with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs each accounting for P4.5 billion of the total full-year target.

But Beltran said the Bureau of Customs, although it had met its monthly total duty collection target, might not meet the projected revenue target of the BIR.

He said the DOF expected the fact that the TRO had gone the route of a long, tedious judicial process.

The multi-sectoral Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) earlier criticized the TRO issued by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court. The group said that tax exemption for imports passing through Subic only covers inputs or raw materials for production, and not final goods sold outside the freeport.

FTA said the TRO was unfair to local producers who pay taxes on their products, unlike importers. The group also said the court decision was unfair to the government, which spent time and effort having the sin tax law passed to generate much-needed revenues.

In imposing the TRO, the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court cited Republic Act No. 7227, which states that no taxes, local and national, shall be imposed within the Subic Special Economic Zone.

DOF bucks perks for auto parts, tourism

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS expected to propose to grant fiscal incentives to the automotive parts and medical tourism industries, both of which are working on breaks.

The DOF said the call for fiscal incentives was not timely given current government efforts to plug huge revenue losses from reducing tax and duty free privileges.

The government's budget woes was blamed partly on the generous granting of fiscal incentives.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said if was essential for the industry to claim it needs incentives, but that the government should exercise prudence in the granting of incentives.

"Everybody wants incentives, but we are not a rich country," Beltran said.

The finance official said the DOF has supported a bill pending in the Senate limiting the granting of incentives to export-oriented firms or those in the country's 58 poorest provinces.

The Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) earlier reiterated its call for the government to re-issue executive orders that would limit the importation of secondhand vehicles to the industry.

The MVPMAP repeated concerns that the recent signing of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which includes a provision reducing tariffs on imported cars, would make it more difficult for the domestic auto and auto parts industries to compete.

Meanwhile, Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas and Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores filed House Bill No. 5896, which seeks to create medical tourism zones and grant fiscal and non-fiscal incentives such as tax holidays to investors.

The bill is aimed at making the Philippines a better destination than countries like Cuba, India, Israel, Malaysia, Thailand, which are becoming favorite destinations for medical, dental and surgical services.

Beltran said, however, that granting fiscal incentives to the two industries would only encourage other industries to ask for similar tax and duty perks.

He said though that these industries may still avail themselves of tax perks as long as they export or locate in the poorest provinces. Michelle V. Rosca

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF CONTRACTORS AND/OR SERVICE PROVIDERS

World's 5th largest . . .

From page B1

ma and the US have also been targeting on the prospects of Dinahican even before the bidding was announced.

United Super Clout with the influence of having operate the project with local partners is also believed to have fully operational by 2008.

On Thursday night, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes quelled the fears of members of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines that the government is out to impose a moratorium on new mining projects.

"There is no moratorium," Reyes said on the sidelines of the Subdio Philippine Mining Conference held at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Reyes pointed out that the government is actively pursuing "the promotion of the 24 priority mining projects . . . but we are carefully reviewing new mining permits for the issued."

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines earlier voiced its concern over the government's slowdown in the issuance of permits, leading some members to assume that a moratorium could be next.

Since Reyes assumed his post, only one new MPSA has been issued as new mining permit whether for exploration or for commercial production.

Data show that there are currently 14 pending mining permits that have not been given the stamp of approval even the last eight months.

But Reyes explained that the agency was just being careful in studying the applications.

He said the DENR could not afford to sacrifice the environment in exchange for high economic returns brought in by mining investments that the agency estimates may reach $26.3 billion over the next 5 to 10 years.

"While we recognize the positive economic impacts of mining, we remain fully committed to the vital and important task of safeguarding the environment and of preserving scarce capital in all of our mining programs," Reyes said. With a report from Reuters

7-mo OFW . . .

From page B1

based workers also posted a double-digit growth of 12.6 percent during the month.

For the first seven months of 2006, total deployment reached 661,360 or 5 percent higher than the figure posted in the same period last year.

Of the cumulative seven-month deployment, 412,103 (24.6 percent) are sea-based workers, and 498,037 (75.4 percent) are land-based workers—up from last year by 14.4 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

"The increasing government emphasis on the sea-based sector is evident as workers' categories through skills upgrading, technical training and better education have contributed largely to the increasing preference for the Philippines as a source of skilled labor," the BLE said.

Citing the improved figures, the BSP said it was more confident of hitting the target of $11.5 billion in total remittances for the whole of the year compared to $10.7 billion in 2005.

Nurses enjoy the highest premium abroad, earning 16 times more than they could otherwise earn gainful if they stayed in the country. Other lucrative occupations are medical technicians, who can earn 10 times the local rates, computer programmers and engineers, who can each earn five times the local rates.

With a report from AFP

Shares . . .

From page B1

Gainers led losers 61 to 23, with 34 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 172 billion shares worth P1.53 billion ($30.5 million).

At mid-day, the local currency was at 50.389 to the dollar.

PSEI advanced 19.68 to close at 1,911.10, recovering for about 37 percent of total losses.

Chinese turnovers include Banco de Oro Universal Bank which rose 50 centavos to P31.

Ayala Corp. advanced 19 to P481 while unit Ayala Land Inc. gained 25 centavos to P14.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.'s A and B shares closed steady at P85 and P87, respectively. AFP

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Cebu bank bucks closure

By Jhonnes Napallacan
Reporter/Magsaysay

CEBU CITY—THE BANK OF CEBU (BOC) escaped the thumbs lowered sig Philippine (BSP) and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) of grave abuse of discretion when they closed the bank last Aug. 31.

The bank filed last Tuesday a petition for certiorari before the Court of Appeals-Cebu and asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order to allow the Bank of Cebu to reopen.

The petitioners outside Bank of Cebu president Epifanio Canlas Salcedo, Ricardo Angeles who represented the Peninsula Equities and Realty Assets Inc., the majority stockholder; Danilo Lucas, a stockholder and a representative of the employees; and several depositors.

They noted that the bank, under new management, has been improving its operations over the past two years.

"It was a real shock to everyone that the bank was placed under receivership and petitioners question the basis for such action of the Monetary Board and BSP," Leopoldo Solano, chief of the bank's Branch Operations and one of the petitioners, said in an interview.

Until Aug. 31, the day when PDIC implemented receivership order, all the Bank of Cebu branches had been operating normally the petitioners said.

"The bank had and has sufficient assets to meet liabilities. And it has been able to continue its business without resorting prohibited loans or to depository or creditors," the petitioners said in their 28-page petition before the CA-Cebu.

They added that based on their records, the bank is clean and liquid and without any liability when deposit liabilities.

"In other words, the Bank is sound and being properly managed. It is very solvent," the petitioners added.

Solano told the business the group was hoping for a favorable response from the CA.

He said the actions undertaken by the respondents shortsighted. Close banks, the community and their depositors.

The Bank of Cebu has seven branches, a total of 7,000 depositors and over one hundred employees.

Transco auction schedule moved anew

By Abigail L. Ho

New deadline for submission of bid requirements set for Sept. 28

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) has again extended by another two weeks to Sept. 28 the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents required to take part in the auction of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession.

The move was prompted by the request of prospective investors for more time to prepare the required pre-qualification documents.

PSALM said it received at least five requests for another extension.

"We want to ensure that two or more parties will participate in the bidding. It will be more competitive if only one party will show up for the pre-qualification process because the bidding will automatically be declared a failure," PSALM president Steven Dennis said in a statement yesterday.

He for bidding is the contract to maintain and operate the national electricity transmission grid.

"We believe that all parties concerned will benefit if we make the terms of reference a lot clearer. We would like to ensure all prospective participants in the Transco bidding that PSALM will maintain transparency in all stages of the transaction," the added.

Four of the interested bidders, PSALM said, already had all the necessary pre-qualification documents in place.

Moreover, its principal and prospective partners seemed a little more time to address requirements related to the technical and financial aspects of its bid.

Another bidder from Asia, sought an extension to accommodate a group that wanted to join the consortium that it was putting together to bid for the Transco concession.

It said in a letter to PSALM that its board of directors still had to discuss the request of the new group to join the consortium.

A financing group representing another prospective bidder from Asia sought a deadline extension as the requisite financial documents of one of the members of the bidding consortium were not yet available, PSALM related.

The documents that formed part of the pre-qualification requirements would come from as far as the United States and London, making it physically impossible to have them delivered by the Sept. 15 deadline, the financing group said.

Apart from granting the prospective bidders' request for an extension of the pre-qualification deadline, it had earlier decided to push back the actual bidding date to Oct. 7 from Sept. 27.

Super region plan seen helping Ecija economy

By Rosalee Regan
Reporter/Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—THE EXecutive of Nueva Ecija in the proposed super region is now pushing the development of the province's agriculture-based businesses.

The northern part of Nueva Ecija is included in the North Luzon super region, while the southern part is included in the Metro Luzon urban-industrial-tourism super region), according to Board Member Edward Thomas Joson.

Joson, who has been representing the province in the series of meetings on the super regions development proposal, said eight big infrastructure projects have been lined up so far for Nueva Ecija.

These are the Cabanatuan bypass road project, Bongabon-Baler road construction (Phase 2), Sabaliko-Dingalan road project, Digdig, Cuyungkung-Dalton Pass-Alfonso alignment, Cuyungkung road power project, Bulo-Igulot dam project, Chico River control and flood and irrigation project, and the San Isidro-Jaen-San Leonardo-Muñoz-Talavera road project.

Construction of farm-to-market roads were also included in the projects for Nueva Ecija.

Joson said the development of the super regions "provides a holistic approach to the economic development of the country."

"It is a macro view of development efforts where the participants work together for common goals," he said.

In connection with the development programs in Nueva Ecija, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her speech during the Nueva Ecija Day celebration on Sept. 2 that she had authorized the release of P5 billion for the irrigation component of the Cross-sectoral purpose irrigation and power project (CSIPP).

The governor, she said, would be released over five years.

Mr Arroyo said developments in Nueva Ecija, which is the country's leader in palay production, would focus on building industries.

"We are envisioning the establishment of industries in the provinces areas in the southern part of Nueva Ecija like Gapan and Cabanatuan cities. That's why we have also included the province in the Metro Luzon urban-beltway," she said.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

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Tin Hau-inspired cuisine on PAL flights

FOOD LOVERS AND AVOWED GOURMETS, who are flying from Manila to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tianjin and Singapore on Philippine Airlines in September, begin their gastronomic experience inflight, as the international carrier unveils its new Tin Hau, Manila's Oriental, Wanchai top-rated Chinese restaurant.

Throughout this month, stylish a la carte menus that proffer the creations of Tin Hau executive Chinese chef Hans Fam Chun-an served on flights of Asia's oldest airline, out of Manila to the five key destinations.

The menu has Asian five sumptuous dishes, namely: a trio of scallops with fish roe tomato, drunken chicken in green ginger sauce and braised vegetables, and mushroom silk wrapped with pan-seared bean curd skin, as appetizer; three entrée choices, served with E.O. sauce — Wok fried cut Pork Spareribs complemented by black pepper sauce, and stir-fried green beans with minced bell peppers, Japanese rice with green onions. Steamed chicken scented by ginger and leek in Shao Xing wine, young spinach with diced tofu, sliced mushrooms and wolfberries, Beijing noodles and steamed cod fish with bean crumbs, topped with rose pan paste, and served with lotus root and asparagus with salted egg yolk sauce, and wok-fried rice with seafood, and for dessert, Emperor Tea, a sweet white fungus soup enhanced with Asian fruits and quail eggs.

"We are delighted to team up with PAL's inflight kitchen and catering service in this pioneering effort on the part of Tin Hau to offer some of its chic and stylish dishes as an inflight menu," says David Thomas, Manila's Oriental, Manila's executive assistant manager-food and beverage, adding that the services coincides with the introduction of new exciting menus at Tin Hau.

The close collaboration is in keeping with Mandarin Oriental, Manila and Philippine Airlines' common commitment to customer satisfaction and service quality which entailed a series of meetings between chef Chun and PAL's executive chef Ian MacIntosh and Criselda Ong, PAL passenger inflight food standards division. PAL's vice president marketing support Nick J. Cruz adds, "We are proud to present a fine dining experience to the air with the quality cuisine of Tin Hau. This venture not only enhances our dining service, but it also gives us the excellent opportunity to present another dimension in our fine inflight cuisine."

Dusit gourmet unveils signature cake

LETTING YOURSELF LOOSE TO SUITEN your appetite for savory cravings is a recommended luxury. Indeed, life gets better or at least more feel lavish, with savory indulgences. For this reason, Dusit Hotel Nikko has created a luxurious dessert to satisfy your most beautiful desire for sweet temptations and offers this "Chocolate Mango Cake" signature cake.

Embrace the stylish interplay of chocolate and mango with a unique blend that, when the most seductive form of the chocolate cake, has taken shape ready to entice you. A taste of this moving chocolate ganache symphony attained by mangoes, an affluent serving of creamy chocolate and balanced by roasted cashew nuts will keep you breathless. It is also the most divine which is present by the soft, luscious chocolate cake enhanced by the flavor and aroma of garden leaves, vanilla extract and rum passionately weaved by award-winning pastry chef Connie Cordero.

Take pleasure in this elegantly divine signature dessert at Dusit Gourmet for only P680 nett. An order of the Dusit Signature Cake comes in a unique wooden package making it a delightful gift item.

For inquiries, call 867-3333. Please place your orders at least 2 days in advance.

Mediterranean cruisin' at Bellevue's Café D' Asie

CU ON A MEDITERRANEAN cruise through amazing cuisines and delectable dishes at The Bellevue Hotel's main dining outlet, the Café D' Asie. The food hall and gastronomic getaway of the southern Metro Manila takes you to the magic of Mediterranean cuisines, choice-treated by its Bon-Bon-inspired executive chef Jeffrey Ang and many regional recipes known in European and filling buffets. From Sept. 18-23, sample the taste of the Near Mediterranean in Spanish, French and Italian dishes, such as Zarzuela de Mariscos, Arroz con Pollo, Paupiette de Boeuf, Quenouilles de Langoustines and Ciabatta de Cordero. On Sept. 25-30, take a trip to the Eastern Mediterranean scenes by of Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt with dishes such as Greek Shrimps, Kofta Kebab, Eggplant Moussaka, Greek Spanakopitas and

Syrian Apricot Chicken.

The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of The Month for September lets you indulge to your heart's content while savoring the healthy benefits of green tea. The Green Tea Tiramisu puts a unique spin to traditional treatment by infusing it with the flavor-intense essence of green tea, known as an effective antioxidant. Enjoy it with coffee while lounging out at Bellevue's Pastry Corner, or bring it for home for the whole family. For inquiries, call 771-0101.

Exhilarating banquets at City Garden Hotel — Makati

THE BIG SIRO 2000 CERTIFIED CITY GARden Hotel Makati, presents banquet packages geared to take away the hassles and stress of doing it on your own. Sixty package goes for as low as P134,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and choice of an drinks, for wedding and debut packages some for as low as P59,000+ (exclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, toastmaster, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Reception venues may be held at its cozy fully-equipped Function rooms or at the al fresco Rendezvous, with a wonderful view of the metropolis. Make your party on a weekday and enjoy further discounts of almost 15-20 percent from the package.

For those one on one meetings, it has two conveniences that you can choose from: the chic mezzo8, La Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Rendezvous Bar and Grill where you can enjoy a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering to Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills". Enjoy mouth-watering steaks, ribs and lamb chops garnished with corn on a cob, grilled onions, tomato and aubergine.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Boulevard and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service to the Makati CBD.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7670 Makati avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquiries, please call 893 899-1111, or in domestic toll free number 1-800-1-857-GARDEN (8427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.

People, Events & Products

All aboard for Cebu!

THE MEDIUM IS UNCHANGING, groan or PIC, the global financial services conglomerate. Bringing its business-to-business partner Philam Plans Inc. still in its embarking on a National Sales Conference in the island city of Bacolor, Cebu this coming Sept. 25 to 27. The top producers and leaders of the agency force will be treated to the conference with Jack J. Russell, its vice president and CEO of Philam Plans will be leading the sales force in the conference activities which also marks the kick off of "The Philam Plans Experience" by Philam Plans, leadership AIG's dominant strengths and leadership in the financial services industry around the globe, currently, itself to be the future savings partner of the Philam Plans would like to celebrate this occasion with our sales leaders and top producers — we would like to embark on this momentous journey with us as we move forward towards our mission to becoming the future savings partner of the Filipino people," Russell explains. Aside from other key activities during the conference, the keynote speaker will feature Ms. Carol F. Pierce, vice president of marketing operations Asia, AIG's 699 day 6-wing. Pierce will be the guest and support of PAL's top management conference that takes in the Philippine market, and strengthens their support of Philam Plans. The qualified sales leaders and producers will be flown in from all over the Philippines and booked in a top beach resort for 3 days. Among Pierce would be the ambassadors of Philam Vision and Patricia Henao, who have been a partner and advocate of Philam's financial education platforms. Stay before that lasting for your children's education is a top priority of every family.

ACER PHILIPPINES PROMO WINNERS

Acer Philippines, one of the leading branded PC vendors in the world recently concluded the "Win with Acer : Enjoy Life Promo". Two 1st prize winners, Luis Benson and Veronica Chua each were treated to a trip to Japan for 2 to the USA, inclusive of a whole day of fun and adventure at the Universal Studios and Disneyland and 4-days, 3-nights hotel accommodations. Second prize, four Travelbank Dual Wheel Wheat leather golf notebooks were won by Dante R. Pagkalinawan, Allan Wilson and Arthur Ramos. Ten winners were drawn for their Extensa N5300 mobile phones as 3rd prize, 15 winners for Canon Powershot A530 digital cameras and 20 1GB iPod nano MP3 players for the 4th and 5th prizes respectively. Photo shows 2nd prize winners with Agnes Tena-Espino, marketing manager of Acer Philippines (first from left) and Manuel Wong, general manager, Acer Phils. (far right).

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Liza Gruta B. Mangosing

Delaying or preventing type 2 diabetes may soon be possible

By Charles E. Rubio

DIABETES IS ONE OF THE greatest health challenges facing the world. With some 194 million people currently diagnosed, the International Diabetes Federation estimates that if nothing is done to arrest its progress, the number of diabetic individuals will reach 330 million within 25 years.

Of the diabetes's two main forms, type 2 diabetes is the most common, accounting for 90 percent to 95 percent (or an estimated 146 million people) of those with diabetes.

"In type 2 diabetes, the body has a relative lack of insulin or the insulin secreted is unable to do its job properly. Either way, this means a rise in blood sugar level without proper management this condition can lead to various complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, blindness and nerve damage," informed Sanofi-Aventis Philippines senior medical advisor Dr. Irlay Dagmang.

Affecting younger population

She explained that while type 2 diabetes generally occurs in people 40 years and older, the trend now is to see type 2 diabetes affecting younger people (adolescents and young men and women) because of obesity and death.

Aside from being overweight, another factor that could contribute to the likelihood of someone developing this type of diabetes is having an impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG), which are both prediabetes conditions in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 diabetes.

Persons with IGT or IFG have a significantly high risk of developing diabetes (as well as cardiovascular disease) if their lifestyle remains unchanged. Persons with normal glucose tolerance and fasting are an important target group for primary prevention.

At present, the only therapies known to reduce the risk of diabetes in individuals with IGT or IFG are weight loss and exercise.

But this may soon change.

Landmark study

A few years ago, the landmark Diabetes Prevention Evaluation (DPE) study tested a medication called metformin (marketed here as Glucovance), usually used to lower blood pressure, to see if it could reduce risks. Some 3,234 adult females and men underwent intensive in high risk patients, which it did.

Metformin belongs to a class of drugs called angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors that is now approved for the prevention of stroke, heart attack and cardiovascular death in people at high risk for cardiovascular events.

But what was interesting in that study was that metformin also prevented the development of new diabetes by 34 percent.

The finding increased hope that this medication may also be used to prevent diabetes in high-risk patients, hence the Diabetes Mellitus Insulin Glucose Infusion in Acute Myocardial Infarction (DIGAMI) study.

Delay or prevent diabetes?

"The DIGAMI study is designed to determine whether metformin can be long used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and exempt Chinese who used in the study's, and those so together can delay or prevent the development of type 2 diabetes in those who have IGT and/or IFG," Dagmang explained.

The doctor said that should this study confirm the diabetes-preventing effect of Glucovance, it will then be a medicine available for preventing this onset of diabetes as well as its complications.

The highly anticipated results from the DIGAMI trial will be revealed at the 42nd Annual Meeting Association for the Study of Diabetes conference in Copenhagen, Denmark this week.

'hESC lines in the sand'

LAST OCTOBER ROBERT LANZA and his colleagues at Advanced Cell Technology announced that they had developed a way to obtain embryonic stem (ES) cells and develop ES cell lines without harming the embryo it self. The researchers extracted a single cell from a mouse embryo—an eight-cell embryo—and then separated the single cell with promising ES cells and let the cells grow in culture. In the meantime, the now 7-cell mouse was implanted into a surrogate mother mouse and was found to develop normally.

Last month in the journal Nature, Advanced Cell Technology announced that they had successfully duplicated the above procedure on human embryos. The lead scientist from Massachusetts produced by using the single cell removed from the embryo to establish the 22 stem cell lines. Of the 91 embryos that were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable for the completion of the study, 36 embryos survived the procedure. Of the 36 embryos, 91 of the 128 cells from all 36 embryos were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable for the completion of the study. Of the 36 embryos, 91 of the 128 cells from all 36 embryos were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable for the completion of the study.

And yet, if the end goal of researchers like Lanza is to develop tissue that is genetically identical to the patient's own body, then maybe the issue of using human embryos is just the first hurdle. One of last July's articles in the journal Human Molecular Genetics raised the question of whether or not ES cells from hESC lines maintained for long periods of time differentiate into specific cells which may not behave like other cells.

DISCOVER
Maricar Santos Salton

Use of human embryos

Given that they won't harvest ES cells for this study, it is not surprising that Lanza et al's new paper has been met with fierce controversy from the start from last year. The use of human embryos in any experiment is not popular with several sectors of society, including the Catholic Church.

Though Lanza et al. had tried to develop a technique that would keep the embryo viable despite extracting a cell, understandably this time they used human embryos to establish the 22 stem lines. All in all, 91 of the 128 cells from all 36 embryos were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable for the completion of the study. Of the 36 embryos, 91 of the 128 cells from all 36 embryos were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable for the completion of the study.

Still, Lanza notes, their work proves that it is possible to develop stable ES lines from a single cell.

And yet, if the end goal of researchers like Lanza is to develop tissue that is genetically identical to the patient's own body, then maybe the issue of using human embryos is just the first hurdle. One of last July's articles in the journal Human Molecular Genetics raised the question of whether or not ES cells from hESC lines maintained for long periods of time differentiate into specific cells which may not behave like other cells.

Neural cells

For the study, Yi Shen and colleagues from the Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Medicine at UCLA took hESCs from the National Institute of Health (NIH) hESC line H9(9) and allowed them to develop into neural cells. Researchers then assayed the IGG bands in the neural cells for genetic abnormalities and found that overall human the IgG bands (53 out of 4000) had increased in the neural cells.

"Why does this matter? IGG bands are short DNA sequences that are rich in CG pairs, hence the name. They are often found in coded promoters of genes that are frequently switched on. Hence, aren't usually methylated unless the genes are inactivated. If the CpG islands are methylated so genes that should be active, however, they could end up being switched off. It is also found from the hESC line cannot actually function like the cells they are being differentiated into, then that would be a setback in the promise of what stem cells promise and can do," Lanza explained.

Short of, it recommended further study to be conducted to examine the methylation levels of other cells derived from hESC lines and determine if there are any consequences. Such, however, is the years that both studies only demonstrate that the promise of stem cell research will not be realized in the near future.

E-mail the writer at maricar@yahoo.com.

Josefina C. Fonacier: pioneer and implementor

IN 1999 I INTERVIEWED DR. JOSEFINA "Jojo" Fonacier at length, for an article on Philippine participation in the International Math Olympiad for the International Journal The Mathematical Intelligencer (Springer-Verlag, New York). For under-fours coach Dr. Jose Almendras, Jojo was a pioneer in selecting our talented students for this competition. How? To choose the best of the best, Jojo organized the first Philippine Math Olympiad (PMO) in 1984, and now the PMO is going strong.

The first PMO was conducted on a thrashing basis in two regions, the Metropolitan Capital and the Southern Tagalog regions. Following this successful start, the PMO was expanded to Cotabato and since 1986, it has been conducted every two years. The Department of Science and Technology has been a major sponsor, shelling out an average of more than half a million pesos each year. Budding stars of the PMO also enjoyed free coaching sessions at the DOST-SEI, with sponsor for her principles and code materials. With the endorsement of the Department of Education, the PMO is now a regular event under the leadership of the Mathematical Society of the Philippines (MSP).

Much if an identifying and motivating mathematically gifted students, the PMO aims to provide a vehicle for the professional growth of teachers, and to stimulate the improvement of mathematics teaching. Jojo affirms, "the medicines are all topical."

Worked all her life

Jojo graduated with a BS Education degree, major in mathematics, from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman in 1949. She has worked in UP all her life, particularly with the Institute of Science and Math Education Development (ISMED). Jojo was the chair of the Math Department of the College of Education (now College of Education) from 1970 to 1974, and director for 19 years (when becoming director, she was part of the team that developed the first generation of math textbooks of Sanay, which are currently used by various schools in the country). In 1990, she decided to retire, but she indefatigable educator soon returned after three years as consultant.

Unlike the stereotypical confrontations in the ivory towers, Jojo is pragmatic. Known for her no-nonsense attitude, Jojo is a straight-shoot. For a long time, Jojo was either associate or managing editor of Matematika (nominally the official journal of MSP. From to 2001, when

EUREKA!

ANGELINA S. LIM-CHUA

Jojo was editor-in-chief, she was responsible for the publication of the journal on consistently and regularly. I am proud to say that under my guidance, the journal—6,000 copies each printed and distributed—came out on time, in May and November of every year. Last year I handed the editorship to Milagros Ibe, but Jojo remains member of the editorial board.

Jojo is a founding member/founding member of the Mathematical Society of the Philippines from 1997 to 2001. She has taught mathematics recently at the college and graduate school, and her biggest regret is "not having spent enough time teaching in the classroom." With her husband Jose Ma. Fonacier, she lives in Quezon City. Jojo confesses, "I am working for some institutions to give me an honorary degree," she laughs.

Jojo's work will come true, too soon. Timothy Gowers, Fields medal winner, has called for a mathematics degree. But something equally progressive—recognition for lifetime contributions in the field. Together with former president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines founder Dr. Consuelo Gonzalez, Jojo, and Dean of Manila College Graduate School of Education Dr. Milagros Ibe, Jojo will be honored for her invaluable work, both in front of and behind the scenes, to mold the development of mathematics education in the Philippines.

E-mail the author at lilmathtech@yahoo.com.

Why some women don't breastfeed

By Rebecca B. Siegers, MD, FPOGS
Contributor

Unclaimed

LAST WEEK I CHAPTER ON BREASTFEEDING why some women do not breastfeed. Here are some smart reasons:

- **Wrong feeding pattern.** Some women think baby should be fed on demand every three hours and only for 10-20 minutes. Babies should be fed on demand because it may take up to 2-4 weeks to establish a good milk supply. Most babies will feed every 1½ to 2½ hours. Feeding more than two hours may cause the breasts to become engorged and painful. This decreases milk production. Also, the baby will not gradually build up breastfeeding by nipple-sucking with burnouts or gassy-some are willing themselves up for a higher likelihood of failure to establish breastfeeding. Breastfeeding stimulates to breast milk in the first six months will create the baby to become full, and decrease its demand of breast milk, which in turn will decrease its supply.

- **Mild not producer enough milk."** So many women are so insecure and so unprepared to believe that if women had allowed them to have a child, instead would be able to produce the milk to keep their baby alive. It is all based on supply and demand. The moment you start to suckle breasts, the demand for breast milk decreases since the baby is fully fed—a longer period of time. Again, in this it because the production of breast milk may undergo initial supply fluctuations following pregnancy to avoid infection and cause some allergies, while breast milk is digested by the baby's digestive system.

- **Unrelenting frustrations.** Persons who end up with a scarcity of issues that can start with a good latch on, then end up frustrated when the baby loses nipple, or other baby-related issues. The problem is, the moment baby gets stressed, the mom's release the hormone prolactin, which is released from her pituitary gland at the base of the brain, which is responsible for the milk let-down reflex.

- **Poor breast support.** Some of the first people who may discourage you from breastfeeding may be your very own mother, aunt, or relative who grew up in a system that is contraindicated by milk to believe that formula is superior to breast milk! Some overbearing women may find a ridiculous why you should make life difficult when there is formula milk to buy in any store today and that's why God has seen to believe that since your family members didn't breastfeed, you won't be able to either, which is so untrue.

- **Illness and infection.** Sometimes it helps to distract the baby from the breast or television can prompt your problem to shift you to formula feeding. Even during a fever or an infection, as long as it is not AIDS or active tuberculosis, one may continue breastfeeding. Research suggests strongly that any risk of transmission associated with breastmilk is negligible, compared to the high risk of exposure to untreated blood and body fluids at birth. However, stained or bleeding nipples is a reason to refrain from breastfeeding. Also, if you're with serious conditions, could possibly expose the infant to infectious doses of hepatitis.

- **Work interference.** Many women stop breastfeeding since they go back to work. It is unwise after delivering. Good because can be embarrassing during a corporate meeting. The stress of work it will can jeopardize release of prolactin essential to milk let-down reflex.

- **Simply don't want to.** Some women, however, whose pregnancy is under adverse circumstances, like after a rape, are not psychologically prepared to breastfeed. They should not be forced to do so against their will.

- **Fear of pain—** Those who imagine themselves being bitten on the nipples or have seen the suffering of some women with engorged nipples are afraid to undergo breastfeeding because of pain.

- **It literally rubs the thought—**What, oh, don't love the confidence that they have it within them to keep them baby alive through their natural family of breastfeeding.

- **Suits her lifestyle—**Some women don't want to be tied down at home because of work or leisure reasons. Breastfeeding can't simply change her style. This doesn't, we can bring the baby everywhere and still breastfeed. While a diaper over your breast and the baby's head, one can continue to breastfeed without even being noticed. All the baby really needs after all is to be fed and changed.

- **Use formula milk—**Some have no objection. We have no society where we do not use normal breastfeeding in public. So, if you haven't grown up seeing women around you breastfeeding one, understandably, it's something that's hidden away, then it becomes even harder for you to succeed yourself. Many women feel embarrassment with public exposure.

What can be done?

- **Get a lactation counselor.** Participate. A breast massage with lactation counseling does wonders for your milk flow within the hour. Bellerophon specializing in personal and lactation massage based at Asian Hospital near to the work for you and can be reached at 771-9000 or 09-17-826-2020.

- **Inquire about donated breast milk.** If despite lactation counseling and best intentions, the milk is inadequate, withdrawal by less than 6-8 and diapers per day after the first week, or less than three weeks in 24 hours or thirty weight is not regained after the 10th day you can ask your pediatrician or friends to pitch you up with other breastfeeding moms willing to donate breast milk to you. In the meantime, you can make it happen if you so desire.

Dr. Siegers is a fellow of the American and Gynecology Society. She holds down at the Makati Medical Center and the Asian Hospital and Center. E-mail her at drsiegers@asiap.org.ph.

Resort-type communities attract new wave of buyers

POCKET parkare another facilities for kids are standard features in any DMCI community such as those found at Mayfield Park.

VILLAGE administrator Kenny Cruz and customer service relations officer Janice Ong

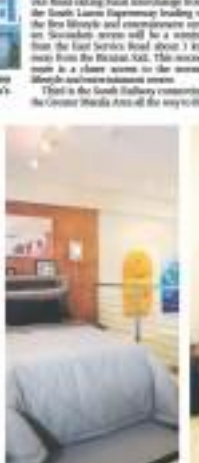
RESIDENTS of The Pearson at Celebrity Place in Quezon City get to enjoy an olympic-size pool at Celebrity Sports as one of their privileges.

Brittany Bay masterplanned for interconnectivity

THE UNIQUE courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept and encompassing Italian theme of the Courtyards at Portofino complements the affluent life experiences of its residents.

THE VICTORIANNE Quick Hits at Brittany Bay draws inspiration from San Francisco's row Victorian architecture.

Avida offers versatile loft units



AN AVIDA loft unit allows the homeowner to enjoy the perception of more space with all other comforts offered by condominium living including a central in-city location.

Green buildings and terrorism

AS AMERICA COMMEMORATES THE 5TH YEAR of the September 11 attacks, many countries are now evaluating what should be done in the face of an ever increasing threat of terrorism.

Today, many buildings, particularly embassies and other government offices are physically isolated by wide setbacks from streets and barricaded such concrete bollards. This is reminded of the medieval castles in Europe with their thick walls surrounded by moats. Protecting buildings with physical barriers is not always practical and in many cases, not possible. What is more effective is using the building's design, including its operation and management, as a first line of defense against terrorist attacks.

GREEN ARCHITREINDS

Amanda de Jesus

What is more effective is using the building's design, including its operation and mgt, as a first line of defense against terrorist attacks

Energy management systems

One of the first sites attacked by the terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001 was the Pentagon. One hundred eighty-nine people died in the crash and millions of dollars in damages were incurred. Many more people could have been killed with bigger damage if not for the centralized energy management system (EMS) that was installed and be to automate the building's heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system and enable it easier to monitor, manage and to reduce energy bills.

With the EMS command center in place, the buildings condition is monitored in real time through laptop computers in the building's 300-plus mechanical rooms.

When the jetliner crashed into the building, **power was cut off including the command center.** The chief engineer, armed with a laptop, a two-way radio and the help of a few loyal engineers from the information systems and some manual commands that closed dampers and turned off fans to contain smoke and deprive the fire of oxygen. In the end, a system designed to save energy ultimately saved many lives and minimized damage.

A large commercial or critical use complex with an energy management system can monitor, manage and control a similar disaster to prevent or minimize damage to life and property.

Green and safe

Green buildings and safe buildings have a lot of things in common. Many of the green principles and concepts energy seamlessly with those for safe buildings.

Green architecture involves the design of buildings that conform to the natural features of their site, is energy efficient, maximizes the use of daylight, maximizes environmental impact, improves indoor air quality including the health and comfort of building occupants.

First thing to do

Whether it's an office building, a shopping mall, a hotel or a school building, safe buildings must be designed starting with a comprehensive analysis of the possible risks and threats that may occur within the premises.

Once the evaluation is done, safety measures are then proposed based on the particular issues of each type of building.

Safety measures

There are several ways to provide safety measures in building.

The first is through the operation and management of the building. This may involve posting more security personnel or guards in critical areas like entrances and exits.

Another way is through high technology features like surveillance cameras, alarm systems and digital and motion sensors. The use of doors, locks, handrails or grab rails can physically direct the path and restrict people's mobility and access to buildings.

Improved structural systems

High rise building design is now undergoing significant changes, as a direct result of the 9-11 attacks.

Pre-safe buildings constructed today are designed to avoid collapsing like paradise when disaster strikes. The means designing stronger columns to support collapsed floors.

Alternative source of energy

For safe buildings it is vitally important to have an alternative source of energy instead of relying solely on the local utility company.

With solar power or fuel cell as a backup source of power providing sustenance lighting and ventilation, people will have more time to evacuate the premises during emergencies. To protect the system from possible attacks, these systems must be located away from exposed and vulnerable sites such as garages and warehouses.

Developers should give special attention to the protection of the power system and the wiring to the equipment.

Protection vs biological attacks

Green buildings are associated with maintaining high indoor air quality for safe buildings, this may same however to avoid having lives when a chemical or biological attack occurs.

Many buildings now are equipped with Hepa filters. Hepa means high efficiency particulate air. It is a type of filter that removes at least 99.97 percent of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria and any airborne particles with a size of 0.3 micrometers at 85 liters per minute.

Investigation of building systems

Once the building systems are in place, a thorough evaluation should be done to verify if the system is working properly to conserve energy and improve the indoor air quality. With this evaluation, weaknesses in the system can be identified and remedied.

One important result of this process is to determine whether the building provides protection from certain threats.

Other innovations

High-speed elevators for safe buildings are now specially reinforced and are used for transporting firemen and other emergency personnel.

Parking garages for the public, wherever possible, are now placed in separate structures and not in the basement of buildings to control a repetition of previous terrorist attacks in many countries. Blast-resistant glazing systems are now also widely used.

As the threat of terrorism continues, building designers and creators are increasingly safer and more comfortable places to work and live. As great architecture and technology are applied to address these needs, market productivity is also enhanced.

Owners and developers must now seriously consider how green design and technology can be applied in their projects, not only to make buildings greener but also safer.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amedesh jesus@gmail.com.

THAILAND'S King Thai Bank Head Office is this year's silver winner up in the Asean Energy Awards in recognition of building category a business on Energy Management System (EMS) to monitor, manage and control power distribution and usage in the entire building complex to save energy and ensure safety.

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Margeswag

OUTDOOR dining place Café Rosa shares the Spanish-Mexican theme that the Ponderosa Leisure Farms adopted.

More amenities at Cavite's exclusive leisure farm estate

By Charlie E. Bolos

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST Exclusive garden village, the 70-hectare Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite, is almost ready.

Developer Lander Pacific Corp. recently announced the completion of several amenities for the use of its residential lot owners and their guests.

"The four new amenities are part of Lander Pacific's commitment to its home buyers to provide them with a value-for-your-money that can be proud of," said Ponderosa Leisure

PLAZA Marsella within the commercial village plaza.

THE KID'S playground will have entertainment and play facilities for toddlers.

Introducing another Landmark, W.H. Taft Residences.

Photo display for announcement purposes only.

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at: 837-8938, 837-8919, 818-1977, 818-1266 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at: mrtbs@philtown.com.ph

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Introducing another Landmark, W.H. Taft Residences.

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PHILTOWN
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Beyond condos, Landmarks.

DAILY fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers grown organically and employed with modern farm technologies can be bought at Tienda de Flores.

Rica's sausage business and [illegible] from Marsella Estate Burgos.

The five new additions are Tienda de Flores village store, the outdoor diner Café Rosa and adjoining Jardin de Ponderosa event area, Plaza Marsella and the Kid's Playground. Except for the kid's playground, these facilities are open to the public.

Sell homegrown crops

Only fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers grown organically and employed with modern farm technologies can be bought at Tienda de Flores. Moreover, Ponderosa residents may opt to sell their homegrown crops here at the village store, which is operated by Leisure Farms Tagaytay Inc., the same operator that manages the village store in the other Lander-owned Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas.

"Traditionally, the flowers grown right at the nursery of Lander Pacific's joint-venture partner Ms. Luisa Ponce-Rufino, will also be sold at the village store," Gross-Burgos added.

Plaza Marsella is planned to be the commercial village plaza. It will feature a central reserve covered in a village motif, the clubhouse, restaurant and a planned chapel. Plaza Marsella will be found by a dedicated walkway on all sides, which may be used for spillover traffic generated by any of the said establishments.

Event area Jardin de Ponderosa, on the other hand, features a built-in stage and function in the middle that can be an ideal place for holding important family occasions like baptisms, weddings or even corporate events.

Adjoining this event area is Café Rosa, an outdoor dining place that draws the Spanish-Mexican theme that the whole development adopted.

Gross-Burgos explained that Café Rosa could also accommodate the additional guests that the adjoining Jardin de Ponderosa cannot cater. Jardin de Ponderosa could seat 300 to 500 (cocktail-style) guests).

Exclusive to lot owners

The Kid's Playground, which is exclusive to the children of lot owners, features engravable art at the perimeter, which blends well to the area's natural surroundings.

It will have entertainment and play facilities for toddlers so their parents could go shopping or go somewhere else, while guardians are provided with a waiting area where they can monitor their children.

"Very soon, Lander Pacific will unveil its model homes as well as Ponderosa Leisure Farm's signature phase, the Ponderosa Heights. Both phases of Ponderosa will be roomier and spacious as lot owners can enjoy all the facilities," Gross-Burgos explained.

90% sold

Ponderosa's first phase, which started in October 2003, is now almost complete as Ponderosa Leisure Farms project director Monique Orendain informed that 90 percent of the phase's available 400 lots (with an average area of 1,000 sq m.) are already sold.

"Ponderosa's major amenities—the Plaza Bonifacio-like entrance, Plaza Maria Luisa fountain and rotunda, Casa Ponderosa model unit and the three themed gardens (El Refugio, El Sanctuario and Cielo Verde)—are ready for our lot owners to enjoy now," said Orendain.

Indeed, the uniqueness of Ponderosa Leisure Farms will certainly attract home buyers yearning for a different concept in community development. With superb location that offers cool mountain weather and climate, as well as perfect serenity, Orendain believes that urban dwellers now have an ideal place where they could spend some time away from the hustle of city life.

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The art of the ma

By Tab Cinco and Gino de la Paz
Photos by Dino, Willy Sam, Rodel Bernal and Rudy Esparas

Sunday became the new Saturday during the Superl Artists' Fair

IT WAS NOT YOUR LEGAL, grab-your-drink-and-stand-around, photo-op event.

In fact, it hardly felt that at all. First, it happened on a Sunday. Next, the special spectacle involved artists, musicians, rare industries, poets, performers, and pretty much everyone who believes in free-flowing positive energy and youthful creativity. Last, all the above-mentioned were gathered in one place for one rare hour while swarming from the night before (or not), it was the Superl Artists' Fair, part Dawn of Superl's 2nd anniversary as our generation's pop culture weapon. Ah, fun.

Shooting there are no boundaries between art and lifestyle (or riches, then shoulders), the country's creative doers displayed their original works and even went their creative duels elsewhere. Outside, the many eccentric people at Iglit City Ed Academy cranked out the jams as graphic design duo Collision Theory screened the finishing touches on their new exhibit down the hallway.

Blank canvases were also set up along the floor, complete with cans of spray paint and considerations, inviting everyone to channel their inner resident...or, graffiti artist to spray away their visions, messages, and, fine, their names and telephone numbers, for all to see.

Inside, DJ Mulan and Caliphir took turns with the tunes, acting like human jukebox with drinks and facial hair, respectively. There were definitely no rules or restrictions, except to have fun and give in to the creativity. As the DJs spun late in the afternoon, some of the All-Stars even kicked off an impromptu breakdance-off, while the Planet Zips performers splashed on color with their

Fluid, take-it-anywhere performance. In a not-so-quiet corner of the set, some kind-hearted shoppers had their hair cornrowed for free by Superl's Hairstylist of the Year, who then braved the locks to groups wishing to recreate the Cornrows of 1988. How's that for throw-back?

Photo from the Move (or Being Tangled Through Ancient Wonder) Collective have took the mic to display their verbal calisthenics for

a moment of spoken word play. Even Bar @ Manoeuvre co-topped the TV (read cell phone) cameras for a bit to open up his live by the duo which is called "BIG CF Manoeuvre." For the first time ever, hip-hoppers beholden with rubbers, environmentalists distributed with fashion falls, and artistes mingled with well-going fans. See, there better name? They're all available for your next children's party! Interested? Contact Jeremy Jose, Superl's resident AC Entrepreneur, who steered the Artists' Fair for the second year in a row, reaped its spirit and purpose: to foster the event's creative spirit and to recognize those who are not usually given a second glance. Thanks to Jeri—and inspiration from Superl's visionary editorial boards—the whole thing will go down in history as the Sunday Superl picked a legacy (not to the least of Rockwell). Whoa.

Or course, the circus wouldn't have been complete without saluting the Superl Artists' Fair Awards winners. Some who took our world (and then some) according to you. For making the world a performance art with their colorful, fiery and garment-like dancers, Planet Zips received a special trophy that they will surely cherish forever. Meanwhile models Raya Mendiguil and Corey Idilla accepted an award for their work with M'lngis, customized yoga and recreation classes brought to you where you want it.

Bonus: Avis Cruz has ended the world of hula fire with "Sunday Bargs."

THE FAMILY THAT SHOPS AND STRETCHES TOGETHER STAYS FABULOUS. Paolo and Angeli Fabregas

MOM FOR ALL SEASONS. Mel Ocbon's bargain maker

POETRY IN FASHION. Rocky Tuason strategizes the spoken word for his Pinay Quinceañera

tter

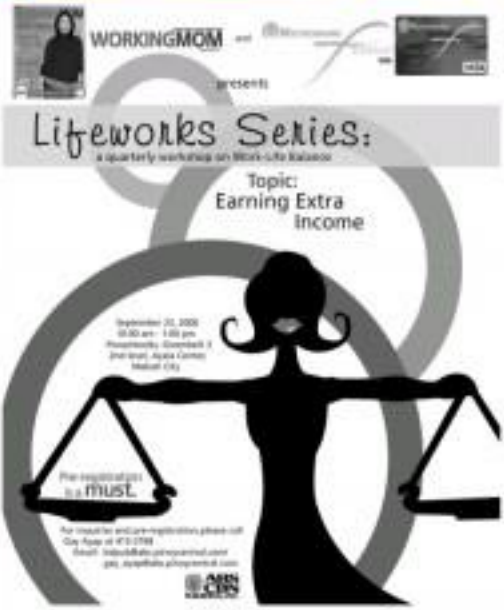
LIZ'S GREAT TOGETHER. Quality and value-actors had a field day

GIRLAND VOICE. "Wow" star-speak up

OH MY GADNESS. Dave Cadness with baby Ian

QUICK FOLK! Grasya Cadness

GROOVE IS IN THE ART. Personalistic Jamesmatic surrealistic



Love-and-Heart-Healthy Cuisine

Veteran culinary chef Wilfo Dominguez has a passion in educational inclusion. It's help spread the word about the benefits of healthful cooking, and a special emphasis on taste and presentation, in a most unlikely place — the hospital environment.

As the resident Executive Chef of St. Luke's Medical Center's Food and Nutrition Department, Chef Wilfo hopes to change the palette of patients one at St. Luke's by changing people's perception about hospital food.

The gourmet chef has come up with a new selection of healthy food recipes catering to the nutritional needs of St. Luke's executive lounge. Heart-healthy pizza, pasta-and-sushi, for instance, can now be ordered from a special menu tailored to individual tastes and dietary specifications. These dishes are exceptional not only for their palate-pleasing qualities, but also for the dishing-of healthy nutritional-to-the-healthy delicious and nutritionals.

Chef Wilfo's love of meals are quantity, the more and bold. Here are some of his secrets in preparing for a healthy meal:

• **Use the freshest ingredients.** Fresh herbs and spices, extra virgin olive oil and fresh mozzarella are not only healthy but also very flavorful. For antioxidants, the use of fresh vitamin-packed, healthy ingredients over ones and dried herbs is recommended.

• **Choose grain, leafy vegetables.** And also: Chinese cabbage, lettuce, watercress and shiitake are rich in health-giving vitamins and minerals. Low in fat and rich in antioxidants, these plant-based foods keep the body strong and healthy.

• **Exercise portion control.** The size of the food serving is an important of a healthy diet. For instance, only 30 grams to 100 grams of lean meat should be served per meal. It only counts it, set for the following day to consumption.

• **Go organic.** The small and round eggplant beans or soybeans, provides a richer vegetable diet. In the case of the meat, it is one of the reasons for their health and longevity. The vegetable has more of the beneficial chemicals that protect the human body.

• **Use healthy supplements as food substitutes.** For healthy food ideas, Chef Wilfo uses nutrient-complete **Ensure** in his recipes. While Ensure is known as a supplement, Chef Wilfo has realized its magic to make it a type of food that is convenient to consume. Drinks, Ensure is rich in protein, calcium, antioxidant and soft fats considered healthy, a mixture of Ensure, olive oil and fresh cottage cheese, he has also prepared dinner sauces and desserts.

Heart-healthy Ensure. Contains all the vitamins and minerals recommended for daily dietary intake. It has the recommended ratio of protein, fat and carbohydrates for a heart-healthy diet. It also contains Ensure Antioxidant and calcium and has the unique fat blend that makes the cholesterol of the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program.

Ensure your heart, ensure your life.
Drink a glass of Ensure daily!

Chef Wilfo Dominguez
Executive Chef
St. Luke's Medical Center

At the ____ is Super Awards, y'all rocked the vote!

By Pepe Diokno

ABOUT A MONTH AGO, WE TOLD you that this year's I AM SUPER! Awards will be given not just to our choices, but to your choices as well. We gave you an email address and a number to send nominations to and treated ourselves for a wave of instant propositions. Or not. The truth is, we were floored by the amount of nominations we received.

While we did get one or two nominations for Alyssa Alano (of the "Kiya Ma" fame), and Mike Ordonez (for rocking the universe by being the only colored secretary in the world with braces), we got a good number of actual nominations. So, before anything, thank you for making our job of tallying nominations an easy one. Easy, except for the sleepless nights and the occasional nightmare.

Success comes to says that the I AM SUPER! Awards have been around for three years. Each year, Super gives recognition to people who have changed, influenced, and made an impact in the fields of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment, and recreation. I AM SUPER! awardees are Super because of their passion, and for their commitment to excellence.

The I AM SUPER! People's Choice Awardees have all of the above—but they also deserve that awards because of their impact on the public. You, the Super public, the best public in the world ("I'm working up to you!, did anyone flinch, after all.

Here are your I AM SUPER! awardees, ranted! Look to them for inspiration (and money, maybe). Like them, arouse your passions, and contribute to society in ways you know best.

Emman de la Cruz

Less than a year ago, Emman de la Cruz was a saved in the head-to-the-enemy scene—filmmakers pitted left themselves stabbing their films, but they die when it comes to their festival.

The solution, Emman thought, is to get indie filmmakers united. Individual filmmakers, he says, are helpless against the big media, but united, indie filmmakers stand a chance. Emman was able to pull together the most talented and influential people in the indie film scene to form the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP). The IFCP will cover filmmakers by handling distribution, marketing, basic, pushing for legislation, and of course, by showing quality films on their own commercial theater in Robinsons Galleria.

Iza Calzado

In an industry full of executives, show-offs, and jilantic people, Iza is a modest, sincere, and real. When we told her that you Super's had chosen her to be as an I AM SUPER awardee, she was floored herself. She screamed, when she found out that it's because she is an inspiration to many.

Iza Calzado is a proud to be a part of a small, but strong, number of people who believe that one film industry will reach heaven heights. For this to happen though, she thinks that those in the industry need to be more supportive of each other—"Enough with the turncoats now," she says. "Let's move on. We should stop looking at what's wrong with the industry and work on strengths."

Rustom Padilla

The world's not as open as we think. While people in our country is more violent, except homosexuality, this doesn't mean there's equality among us. Until Rustom Padilla came out on Pinoy Big Brother, became an TV more all two-dimensional caricatures. Rustom put the gay and lesbian issue on top of people's minds—not as a joke or a freaky act, but as a serious human issue.

Planet Zips

Zipping is an awful dance that is based on the Shoot dance from called "pin..." Planet Zips popularized this act here locally by bringing in a colorful version of the pin, an awful-amazing toy which they called Zips. "Zippers" practice and coach zipping, usually in the heads or open parks. They even led to women around with their visual spectacle of color and light.

"Wee Flow Inc" is the motto of this group of neo-bohemians, who believe that Zipping is about fostering self-expression, individual creativity and simply "good vibes."

Christian Bautista

The most number of nominations went to Christian Bautista. People from all over, even outside the country, emailed and texted his name. Christian's music is universal, and people of different ages and nationalities factor in his music. He hopes edge, though, is that artists his music is played abroad, it brings with it Filipino flavor. Christian has become an ambassador for us.

Christian's also an inspiration for all local artists—the drive to transcend geographical barriers should be present in local acts. At the same time, he's an example of a successful Filipino who stands to boot himself in our country. We need more of that, too.

Rayo Marasigan and Corey Wills

Rayo and Corey belong to an industry that doesn't exactly you. more inner wellness. There's so much to get lost in in the small-living industry: there are vendors, and crocodiles, and strippers along runways. Most models go with the flow, they succumb to pressures, and let the industry control them. Rayo and Corey are Super because they refuse to do so.

The couple traveled the world to find themselves. Now they want to help others find themselves, too. They're put up a yoga center, and they bring their buddhist lifestyle everywhere with them. Here's to finding your Super inner self!

IZA CALZADO is Super in the entertainment world

RUSTOM PADILLA makes the homosexual cause a Super issue

EMMAN de la Cruz rocks the world of indie cinema

CHRISTIAN Bautista is Super, and he's taking over Asia.

RAYO Marasigan and Corey Wills rock the world of sex making the world. Zen.

PLANET Zips is for freaks!

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . creation

Livin' La Vida Rocco

By Tats Diaz

THE ONES ISN'T THE ONLY thing that raises temperatures in the kitchen these days. Not when you have the likes of Rocco Dispirito stirring the sauce. Yaaa!

Celeb chef Rocco, once hailed as "the best on Chef Alive" by People magazine, the star of reality TV show "The Restaurant" and best-selling cookbook and last was joined (no thanks to last week by Get Ayala Skills to share a few of his award-winning dishes in interactive cooking demos. It was a treat to have the New

'Sexiest Chef Alive' Rocco Dispirito gets Manila stirring

York-based Italian American chef on a quest to stir cook of the woods, especially with the whole culinary craze jumping out of the kitchen and into the pop-culture scene. (Yup, chefs are the new rock stars!)

The warm and down-to-earth Rocco instantly charmed the pants off the ladies in the room during the sweet and sassy luncheon at Prego restaurant in Greenbelt. Time again, it ain't that hard to get 'em all swooning when you're tall, handsome, and able to make killer braised short ribs. Rocco had Jun Pesare to from Botocaj, which he hit the island's tofuja pa and bought ingredients to whip up some squid adobo. He overbrisks it into the mention of bake that did it for me—apparently, trying out our infamous exotic delicacy was one of the first things he did when he arrived. His verdict? "Awful is just bad the way it is," he endorsed, "I won't change anything about it." Props to him for being adventurous in our local gastronomic field, whose most foreigners

TREAT! Star chef Rocco Dispirito

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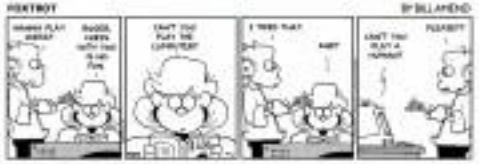
HOTBOT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JOS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY PHIL JUNIOR

NUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

ATOMO AND WEEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

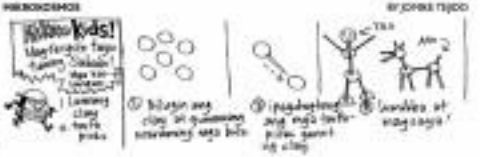
BY STEVEN PANUNUZI

MAD MACHINE

BY MARK ABERA

MELBOURNE

BY JOHNS TIGOO



TULOOK

BY PAPA AND TATUM MILANES JNR.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		7						
	5		8				7	
		6		1		2		3
			2		5		3	
		2				4		
	1		7		8			
1		5		3		6		
	8				6		2	
						1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	7	1	4	5	9	6	8
5	4	8	3	6	9	1	3	7
1	9	6	8	3	7	4	5	2
7	8	5	9	3	6	2	4	1
6	1	9	7	2	4	3	8	5
4	3	2	5	1	8	7	9	6
8	6	3	4	7	2	5	1	9
9	7	1	8	5	3	6	2	4
2	5	4	6	9	1	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10 super reasons why you must watch
The Amazing Race 10

THE AMAZING RACE 10 RACE INTO another exhilarating season on ABS-CBN starting Sept. 18 at 8:30 p.m. with action-packed episodes every Monday at 8 p.m. Twelve limited-time teams of two will be battling around the world in their quest for the grand prize of one million dollars. As if the premise of super adrenaline rush isn't enough—we give you 10 super reasons to watch The Amazing Race 10!

1 - Super-Duper Entire Diversity of Teams

The season's contestants are the most diverse bunch in the history of The Amazing Race.

2 - A Jaw-Logged Race. Literally...

Modern relatives Peter and Sarah, both true blue competitors who have a long history of preparation, have what it takes to lead the rest of the teams despite an opinion Sarah is artificial leg.

3 - Family Feuds and Sibling Showdowns

This promises more emotional frenzy than ever before. If you think you've seen these nasty showdowns and squabbles on non-scripted, stuff like you witness some of the battlefronts on The Amazing Race 10? Getting prime seat in the shadows of this fiercest evaluated brothers feuds, split fantastic competitive side search to exchange the brotherhood? Contestants Lauren and her father Duke are each challenged by one another's past and they are now trying to rebuild their relationship. Will the stress of The Amazing Race force the two brothers push towards stronger bonds?

4 - Will I Live Into The Day?

Past contestants have seen their fair share of near-life struggling towards the finish line. This time around, get set for more emotional roller coaster and thirteen-fold anticipation as the twenty-two-member teams will be put to the test?

5 - Hunks and Babes Aplenty

Check out blonde bombshells Deidre and Kendra—whose also friends and Miss USA contenders who differ in personality while sharing a strong competitive streak. Their pumped rivalry may be a thing of the past turned tension-filled between them when the going gets tough?

MTV-Dark dashing good looks, models Tyler and Lauren are sure to create explosive sizzling fun multiple-seasons? They have been best friends-in-a since their stints in-studs—will their newfound bases on the Real Deal to the finish line?

6 - It's Pick-tastic!

The host of the-up—who can resist Phil Keoghan, host of The Amazing Race?

7 - Exotic Locations, Tougher Challenges and Culture Shock

In another "first" for the show, contestants will cross The Pacific Ocean from Seattle. The challenge point, in the very first leg of the season! Similar to previous first legs, contestants will find themselves-who's thrown in the deep-end — in this case, Asia—right from the start! With languages and cultural barriers soon to dismay some, if not all, of the contestants, the Amazing Race 10 season will make for some exhilarating and amusing viewing pleasure!

8 - Get Yourself in the Mood for AXN's Very Own...

The Amazing Race Asia

By watching The Amazing Race 10, you can gear up for the hush-hotbuttoned "The Amazing Race Asia, hosted by Singapore-based celebrity Mike Wu. The Amazing Race Asia will feature contestants selected out of a massive pool of Asian applicants—who knows, there might be Filipino contestants competing on their race! The Amazing Race Asia will be all-action in the year ends. "Excitine adventurous treat for Asian fans of The Amazing Race series," says Sony Sengeneral manager of SPE Networks Asia.

9 - Stand a CHANCE to Win the Latest Nokia Wireless Mobile Phone!

You can bet your "The Amazing Race lesson" edge by participating to The Amazing Race quiz available on www.axn-asia.com! Answer the quiz and get a chance to win a coveted Nokia phone!

10 - A Lot More on Every.... Again!

The Amazing Race franchise was its fourth Emmy award—a testament to its immense popularity and outstanding quality. This is the fourth consecutive Emmy win for The Amazing Race in the "Best Reality-Competition Television Program" category.

10,000 miles, 30 days, 12 teams and a million dollars. Join veteran host Phil Keoghan (modest promises to be The Amazing Race's most and most dramatic season ever!

Stand to experience what it is like to be in The Amazing Race 10! Join AXN when the Amazing Race Asia Promotional Tour comes to Manila on Sept. 30, 2006 at the Mall of Asia. Log on to www.axn-asia.com for more details!

MEET the 12 teams who are set to travel the globe during the 10th installment of the show's Emmy Award winning reality series.

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Chick Flick

Paolo R. Reyes
Inquirer Cinemax Diario

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT that a low-budget French documentary (about flightless birds, of all things) would beat "War of the Worlds" and "Batman Begins" at the box office?

Having earned over $370 million in the U.S. alone, "March of the Penguins"—the spellbinding 2005 Oscar-winner for Best Documentary—remains the ninth-highest grossing **independent film of all time, and arguably** the most successful documentary to date.

Last Wednesday, United Pictures premiered the Filipino version of the 80-minute film, "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Gumawa?", which is now showing in selected theaters, including Glorietta, Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt, Gateway, Market! Market!, Festival Mall, and Robinsons Galleria.

Following in the footsteps of Morgan Freeman (who lent his lyrical voice to the Americanized version), Filipino actress Lorna Tolentino narrates the riveting tale of the royal Emperor penguins of Antarctica.

Every March, since the beginning of time, the Emperors begin a quest to find the perfect mate. But this is no ordinary courtship; it begins with a long journey through a vast labyrinth of ice—one that will force them to trudge through an entire continent by foot, in brewing cold temperatures, through perilous waters. They will risk starvation and predatory attacks, under merciless climates, all to find true love.

It's a commendable cinematic effort on the part of Luis Suarez, Jr.—a project of one that would have finished a loud "Others!" from the less wildlife enthusiast brave souls. Shoo-ha-soul.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 16, Saturday

Stranger Days: A Tribute to The Doors at Conspiracy; Day at Mag and Café; Sugartrax, Happy Meals & Carrots at Sagada; Beauty Rings w/ DJ Mo'Co at Pink Mistals; Urban Sessions at Circa; Weekender at Cubao Power Mix-up! 4 Cast Queens at 2BU, Bringin' Back The Remedies at Mall; Sleepless at Embassy Club; Party On! w/ Cubo Buddha & JJ at Bleacher's, Extra Night w/ Disco Rocco Early Gig at 70's Bistro; Rescue Unsung at Mezzo; DJ Bobby Joe'Ka' Tonight Dance-O-Rama w/ Gamalanggam Edu at Embassy Cubano; Where Eternal Government; Edu Synchronark & Monty at Prince of Japan; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed; Hardcore at Shang Streetscape

Sept. 17, Sunday

Bobby's "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Gumawa?" at noon-cinemas; Soaked, Wet to 911 at CCP Studio Theater; Cubano Chantaine's Singkland and the Genius Pianists at Philamlife Theater; Trumpet's Acoustic Trio Drummer at Old Megamall Crossing 2

Sept. 18, Monday

Illusion Night at Amnesia Ladies Suites Jazz Night at Conspiracy; Sand BIGGITY w/ Cris Fajardo & Brandon Arnold at Mezzo's; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Bo at Cheshire Mallard; 5 Sins @ Street at Mert's; Jazz Trio at Cubano's Bar

"Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Gumawa?" at selected malls; Fallen in Mania at Club Mech

Sept. 19, Tuesday

2NE1's 1-ON-1 Birthday Party Hot; DJ Mixwell Bates at Embassy Cubano; Radio Active Days Project & Wallpapers at Magnet; Latin Music & Food Uno-Cocina Cubana; Mother Tongue Every Chinese, Blind Mixed Songs & Death By Temperol at Napolis; Hotblack at Mezzo's; DJ Club; Basement of Life Havana Comment; Special DJ at Cubano's Bar; Student Bar Band at Mert's

Sept. 20, Wednesday

Up Electric Disco at "The Bricks, Mayonnaise at Sagada; Champagne M. at Louisa-gasm; Ladies' Night Performance at Amnesia; "Wednesday Wonderboys" at Jazz Bar; Weekend Wednesdays at DJ Boyet Almazan at Elsewhere's; DJ Steve Mills at Mezzo's; Disco Bistro at Mezzo; DJ Cesa Ocampo at Embassy Cubano; DJ Bill at Basement; Buddha Happiness at Prince of Japan; Jukebox Hero at Body at Magnet Café; Jazz Night at Judith Band at Mert's

Sept. 21, Thursday

Mother Lee Audio Jam for Freedom at Conspiracy; Boy Vinyo & Milagros Bamor Ball/Cabinet-ka Nagsilip; Bingo Night at Amnesia; Mixtic; Inspire! DJ Mixwell Bates at Fairmix; Reggae Night at Rhodes Grande; Pongo Thursdays at Townhouse at Al Café; DJ'I at Mag at Café; DJ Chat at Rave; Cocktail Hours at Cabana's; DJ Lounge at Mezzo; Pure Ladies' DJ Event at Prince of Japan; Dance Revolution at Rockets; Stella Fuse & VOX band at Mert's

Sept. 22, Friday

Hardcore High School Party Hot; Salamin, Gerard, Fey Pei dances, Jake Cano & DJ G-Strings at Sweetmadness Clubhouse, Pasig City; 1990's of Generations; Breakdance w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at 2BU; Sweet Sensations w/ Cris Mert Bond, Ronnie Sagsagoba & Ashley Yan at Fairmix; Cris Patrick Mendoza at Mert's; Mixwell, DJs JP Bautista & Bo Peninsul Kuan's Cinderfellas' DJ Steve Mills at Mezzo; DJ Sweet Sam at Embassy Club; Soundbeam at Mall; Rhea's Rock Night at Magnet Cafe; Hip-HOUSE at Al Café; Bar Band at Embassy Cubano; DJ Bo'Ka' Government; DJ Carver & Mr. Dash at Temple; The Series at 70's Bistro; Pools 70 at Mert's; DJs Scratchmark at Prince of Japan; Acoustic Jam at Shang Streetscape

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Livin' La Vida Rocco

From page D1

would develop game-theoretical fix at the same session of 2008, elected Bush first.

Not adventure is something that spices up Rocco's culinary career, of being the pastry chef. The 39-year old graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, and thereafter went to Paris to immerse himself in French food and wine at the prominent Jardin de Cygne restaurant. He developed a fusion cooking style that incorporates Asian ingredients and traditional techniques of baking. His list of praises in the media is a long one. Gourmet magazine to Food and Wine, The New York Times and New York Magazine.

Rocco shared that he was only 11 years old when he first played an active role in his mother's kitchen. In his younger years, he walked up and down the streets of Queens to New York, looking for a job that paid better than $2.50 a week, until he found work in a pizzeria. While working there, he became accustomed to the paper-thin texture of mozzarella that goes into making.

The new chef says he enjoys cooking for everyone and anyone, even for the less adventurous. "You cook to make others happy before you even make yourself happy," he shares. It is this nurturing quality that he believes makes cooking so seductive. "I think what makes cooking sexy is that it is such a generous, giving and joyful act." So what's his recommended recipe for a hot date? "Flavors!" he exclaims. "Because it takes a long time to cook, you have to mix it for 10 minutes... and after matching me and that long, hopefully she'd fall for me!"

Hmm... Rocco's Business. Cinta get a taste of that!

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1 winner per hour 5-10pm

Sunday Sept. 17, (8 winners)
1 winner per hour 3-10pm

Deadline for submission of entries 15 minutes before the scheduled draw

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Friday Sept. 15, (6 winners)
1 winner per hour
2, 4, 6, 8 -10pm

Saturday Sept. 16, (7 winners)
1 winner per hour
2, 4, 6 -10pm

Sunday Sept. 17, (7 winners)
1 winner per hour
2, 4, 6 -10pm

Deadline for submission of entries 5 minutes before the scheduled draw

DIDON. Pictured [illegible]

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Riel P. Avila

Two new TV series vie for viewers' nod

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST MONDAY, TWO NEW TEEN series made their debut on the TV scene—"Babaeng" on GMA-7, and "Crazy for You" on ABS-CBN Channel 2. It's too early to say which show merits our viewership more, so let's lay the groundwork with these initial notes on the shows' first three episodes:

Jennifer Sheen is allowing to "Babaeng" because she plays her "ugly duckling" role in a sunny, straightforward manner; without excessive melodrama.

Too predictable

But, her "ugly for to love with handsome Blue Ear" (Jay Manalo) character is too predictable to be all that interesting. The best portrayal of this type of character was Nora Aunor's in the film, "Bona," and "Babaeng" to really love this country's roots.

We're also underwhelmed by the problem that Manalo's character has been given: The popular Blue star is not sociopathic, because he doesn't know if people love him for himself or for his fame and fortune. —How does school you get?

Still, "Babaeng" bears watching to see how, even if it's "ugly" a TV melodrama, principally for Dennis Trillo and the rest of us.

MARIANO AND GONZAGA. Their new show was shot in Spain.

For its part, Channel 23's "Crazy for You" thrills the new TV love team of Luis Manzano and Toni Gonzaga, with John Prats, Delaweng and Angel Aquino playing support.

The new show's big scene set in the Del that it's been shot in Barcelona, Spain. That gives the production a fresh look that invites viewers to at least take a peek at it.

Unfortunately, the plus point has a potentially negative side to it. Because it could occasionally pull the show down to the dude level of a "travel dramedy."

Also, GMA-7 recently seemed to much the same route with "I Luv New York," on Channel 23 now does, done really as con, but an inclusive relationship to it.

We also note that the new telenovelas very little that's Spanish about it, beyond the fact that Toni's employer Jolo eats up (bing, bing) at a Spanish delis.

Cultural vacuum

Most of its first telenovela serves to extend nationality on its Filipino characters, so they ended up appearing to be in a cultural vacuum.

Manzano does well in the show, but footage and Pokwang are too

TO VIEW 33

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9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
10 MONSTER HOUSE
PENGUIN, PENGUIN

ERMITA

1 CRANK
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
THE WICKER MAN
3 MONSTER HOUSE
PENGUIN, PENGUIN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 BINIBINING K
7 SCOOP

METRO EAST

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 SCOOP
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 CRANK
8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

IMUS

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2 CRANK
3 BINIBINING K
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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Rito Asilo, Jane Diaz topbill 'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' repeats

By Andy Rio

LAST FEBRUARY, MUSICAL THEATRE and Sing Pinsamid's musical on martial law, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," created praise and opposition for its its powerful depiction of one of the darkest periods in the Philippines' contemporary history.

Didi as Bing

The production was acclaimed for its ability to fuse grim reality and imprisonment, relieved comfort and enlightening entertainment, and for delivering the events of the country's youth about an important national experience that took place before their generation.

"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" will be performed anew on Sept. 23 at the Holiday Inn Theatre, in Araneta Center, Cubao, in celebration of the proclamation of martial law. It will also be staged in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Message

The team of creators offering messages about the issues, stability and courage of the Filipinos in fighting for the restoration of democracy is depicted in the book, where their married love had on the family of Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. and his wife, Loretta "Bing" Pimentel, who composed the play's many beautiful and memorable songs. Tones script for the musical was based on Sen. Pimentel's book, "Simulated Love in the Philippines: Martial Law Years."

Publishing the list of performances, stars of "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" are acclaimed musical theater talents Rito Asilo as Sean and Jane Diaz as Bing.

Title role

Asilo has been active in theater for more than 10 years. The lead roles he has played include Jesus Christ in Ryan Cayabyab's hit rock opera musical, "Magdalena," various principal characters in Sing Pinsamid's other musical, "Hanser at Retzel," Juan Miguel in "Bituing Walang Ningning" and "Magsimula Ka Muli ng Umibig" as the OLD Miguel in "Magsimula Ka Muli ng Umibig" as the OLD Miguel in "Magsimula Ka Muli ng Umibig" as the OLD Miguel in

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

SATURDAY Special

From lackluster starlets to glittering stars

Paragraph #1

Ara Gardner was a simple Southern tomboy who didn't think of fame until her photographer brother-in-law exhibited her portrait in his shop. The pictures of the very beautiful teenager caught the attention of an influential agent—and the rest is history.

However, before she was tapped to star in "The Killers," Gardner went through the 1940s—tried and failed and appeared in many B-movies, before she was immortalized in "One Touch of Venus," "Pandora" and "The Barefoot Contessa."

Metalwork

Ginny Hollywood uses diamond dust way to fame by doing menial work. The great Marlon Brando, for instance, worked at different jobs as a lumberjack after he was expelled from a Mississippi military academy.

Up actress started encouraged the rebellious young man to head for New York. After his Broadway success in "A Streetcar Named Desire," director Elia Kazan cast the actor in the film adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play—and Brando's career looked back!

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	4	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
GB3	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 CRANK	
ATC	1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE		2 SCOOP	
	3 CRANK	4	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
ACC	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2	3 CRANK	4
M2	1 CRANK		2	
	3	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5	

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Lagag

Komedya Foundation fulfills a dream

SEVEN ACTORS FROM SAN JUAN, Pasukuan are passionate purveyors of drama. They have taken the bare steps by establishing the Komedya Filipino Association to present the komedya, "Pedita ng Silangan," directed by Arny Teparis, on Oct. 12-15, 1 to 6 p.m. and 2 p.m., Olivares Coliseum, Santa Nicolasan. The original script was written by Dra. Soledad Medrano with additional verses by Rodanel Hernandez.

Footsteps

Rooted in the art of the komedya to follow in the footsteps their parents and grandparents took before them. The foundation's members are Rodanel and Elrey Hernandez, dey and Eileen Gonzalez, Dakster and Mildred Santos, and Jamie Hernandez.

For years, they have appeared in and directed komedya staged in their homes. They are now prepared to bring the tradition out of their small community and into the national scene.

To help achieve this, they have enlisted the help of actors who have gained a foothold in the movie and

ABUEL. Appears in a cameo as Jose Rizal.

(FROM TOP) CLOCKWISE: Gutierrez, Dy Gutierrez, Pasko and Hernandez cast of "Pedita ng Silangan."

television world—Winnie de Guzman, Allen Pasko, Marcus Madrigal, Dale de la Paz, Jojit Lorenzo, Alex Gutierrez and Kimberly Diaz. It centers upon sisters Jane Tammy Abad as Jesse Ward and Aimee Gene (princess Gabriela Silang).

Sue Tammy, appearing in a komedya is nothing new, having played "Prinsipe Bedardo" in 1998, with Celeste Legaspi as his leading lady. The acclaimed actor will also tackle the prince's Berenidez offering, "Pasyong Dalisay."

The komedya tradition has been kept alive through the centuries by various communities, with Imu Dominico as the most famous in the Tagalog region.

Unique art form

The unique art form is more popularly known as the moro-moro, a term which it was coined during 400 years of Spanish domination.

The komedya is the only indigenous form of dramatic art that traces its beginnings to pre-Spanish times.

Call Komedya Filipinas at 521-2000, or Medrol Santos at 707-7270.

From lackluster starlets to glittering stars

By Bebs Cervantes

RHONDA CARTER GUERRERO, and what was her screen name when she was known as "Camille" and "Catherine the Great"? Well, she was the accomplished Gerry Gache, who, in "Grand Slam," declared: "I want to be alone!"

Gache finally fought for prince Christopher his life, which added further allure to her already exquisite personality.

Plump teenager

Before taking up a course in drama in the Philippines as a rather plump teenager, Gache studied in a boarding school in Gothic girl.

Soon after, the former a college, it was during this period that she was discovered by Maestro Sellés, one of Sweden's most influential filmmakers, and she found fame from her first role toward into Belly, wood scene to goddess.

How about Boy Johnson? Before he would leave him as the glamorous Nick Hudson in "Grace," "Magandang Gabi... Bayan," he was a musician. He took on odd jobs while attending his studies.

He would become one of Tinseltown's top male stars in the '70s and '80s. His magazine, he agreed, decided to make his film debut by entering the movie quarters. He fought and won—virtually lost himself to to find image—sold to fill it to fade.

Bert Lancaster was noted as a macho actor after his debut in the film adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's famous short story "The Killers," co-starring Ava Gardner. Because of the film's success, he was cast starring in commercial hits and artistic successes like "Come Back, Little Sheba," where he was cast opposite Shelley Boots.

Later, he didn't show his other skills until years later when he appeared with Burt Reynolds in "Gunsmoke" about life in the Big Tent.

Acrobat

Burt was at home in the role because prior to Hollywood glitz, he earned his living as an acrobat in a troupe called Loring and Starr, a circus group he himself owned.

Janet Tanner, one of those life's most famous blondes, was

HUDSON. Flew worldwide as sweetheart.

known as the favorite girl at the start of her incredible career, because the cameramen became "stuck-on" her cameras to their camera lenses.

The cameras underwent oddly-focused on her because of Tanner's sex appeal justified why "the prettiest female cameramen."

Disastrous before she started in such classics as "The Three Musketeers" and "Bonnie Flora," Lana was a many-splendored woman. But, the famous cameramen thought relationship to the Hollywood goddess

FROM JACKLUSTERS: E1

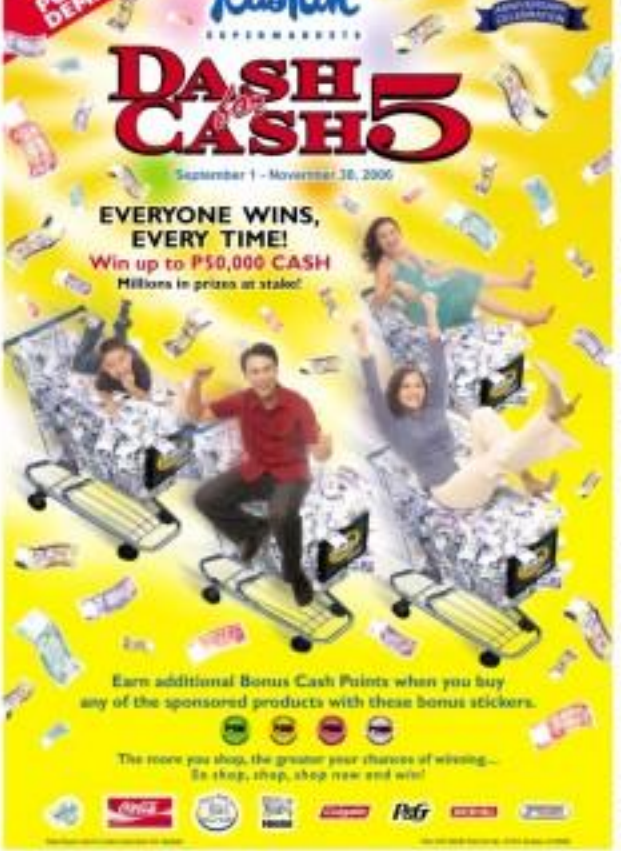
Two new TV series...

From page E1

dney and Ripley bring up a storm for unbeatable scene effect.

Zoraidas hour more points after the viewers reflects that her performances been a much Modern point spot in her first film, "You Are the One."

The actress should really be more creative and versatile, now that she's busy on both the TV and film screens. Otherwise, it would be



Paul Soriano is a chip off the old block

By Jocelyn Valle

TWENTY TWO YEARS AGO, Ronnie de Villa's son, Anne Soriano, directed his first movie, "Hotshots," starring among others, Aga Muhlach and Gary Valenciano. Also, the well-received effort also launched out to be his last, because he chose to concentrate on doing TV commercials.

Now, twenty-one, Paul, picks up where his dad left off. "Directing is a career for me," declares the budding director, whose resume includes the short film, "Secret" (shown at a Greenbelt screening last May), and the music video for actor-band Armageddon's "Boots to Kneel."

Workings

Bred, 24, video has attended film workshops in Los Angeles, Cebu, and Manila. Formed Hide Creative Productions with friends, Mark Gaspar and Mark Gene. The outfit produces music videos, as well as short multi-feature length films.

Boy Cooper's latest projects include three music videos for Gary V's latest album, "Relevance." Paul created a distinct look for each of them.

"Shake It Off" shows three personas of the pop star interacting with one another. "Dancing With an Burning Lupin" presents the performer with his daughter, Xitan, in a carnival setting, and "What Boy Want" is Gary's heart that said Regine Velasquez.

SORIANO. Picks up where his dad left off.

While Soriano feels the pressure of working with two of the industry's biggest singers, he also sees it as a blessing. Regardless, the young director is thrilled to work with Gary whose music and videos inspire him. He singles out "Shout for Joy" and "Break Me" as his favorites.

Paul still has a lot to learn, but he's getting better, and he considers his videos to stand out for viewers. Still, "I want to tell a story through music videos," he stresses. "I'd like to be remembered as a good storyteller."

Advice

Soriano looks up to his dad, whose advice he treasures. He advises: "Be romantic not to your fellow school and do my best all the time."

UST stages 'Onegin' opening CCP

MANILA OPERA SCENE WILL come to life once more with the Philippine premiere of Tchaikovsky's romantic opera, "Eugene Onegin," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 3 and 8 p.m. under Boy Quinto's direction.

Celebration

Mounted by the UST Conservatory of Music under Dona Nieves Ramirez as part of the celebration of the quadricentennial of the University of Santo Tomas, "Eugene Onegin" will be sung by baritone Andrew Fernando and Ariel Arenas alternating

In the title role, with mezzos Rachelle Gonzalez and Thea Rara as Tatyana.

Others in the cast are Giovanni Lizaso and Reinaldo Lizaso as Lensky, Hernan Sison and Pantoja Pacis as Lariosa, Leonard de la Cruz and Eugene de los Santos as Triquet, Jose Bernardo as Prince Gremin, Emmanuel Reyes as Zaretsky and Armando Medina as the Captain.

Call the UST Conservatory of Music at tel. 731-4022, CCP (832-1125), or Ticket Gate (891-9999).

Rito Asilo, Jane Diaz...

From page E1

dancers Dian has created new scenes for her excellent portrayal of Blog Hernandez in the play, while spirited newcomer Irving made of his beautiful and expressive singing voice, and Jane Beaumont and versatile dramatic scene.

Rene Villareal, Jane is flying back to Manila this weekend for the production of "Flip-flop in Bayan," and is looking forward to performing her musical role other parts of the family, as well.

Call Baby at 451-1126.

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Elegant wit, wicked humor in Jackman, Johansson starrer

By Rito B Asido

"Scoop"
D: Woody Allen
S: Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Woody Allen

AMBITION TRUMPS ROMANCE IN Woody Allen's exquisite romantic-comedy-thriller reminiscent of the Cary Grant-Ginger Rogers starrers directed by the likes of Howard Hawks ("Who's Got The Action?" "Swinging Big Shots"), Frank Capra ("It Happened One Night") and Preston Sturges ("Palm Beach Story").

The film follows the adventures of an ardent journalist, Sondra Pransky (Johansson), who encounters intrigue, murder and romance while visiting friends in London.

With the help of the Seventh Earl Mr. (Hugh Jackman)—a wizardly debonair gentleman with a nose for murder and oddball stories, born—and quirky magician Sid Waterman (Allen), the Variety Show wannabe pursues the investigative trail for the scoop of her career.

The dead man's clues lead the young American sleuth to dashing British aristocrat, Peter Lyman (Hugh Jackman), who, like other lovers, is the Tarot Card Serial Killer!

Unfortunately, bombs were finds her **will seniors by the devilish charms of the handsome Englishman**. See, if she doesn't play her cards right, she might end up with a dead-end trail...and a broken heart. Worse, she might end up dead herself!

A worthy follow-up to last year's "Match Point" (which also starred Johansson), Allen delivers a delightful effort not wholly original **whodunit** with a hefty comic punch. The production elicits laughter with its frantic candor and slapstick verbal dissections. **Allen deftly splices** his brand of wicked wit and urbane humor with the movie's dark themes of desire, intrigue and mystery.

Thankfully, the 70-year old filmmaker abandons his notorious penchant of romancing his victorious leading ladies on the big screen. In his latest spiel, he relegates leading-man duties to the charismatic Jackman, who conjures the charisma and masculine grace of Cary Grant. Hugh and Scarlett are a penny pair to behold...the duo makes their scenes crackle with their onscreen spark and evident rapport.

JACKMAN. Evinces the charisma and masculine grace of Cary Grant.

The jaunty Johansson isn't one of Hollywood's best young actresses for nothing—the sizzling Allen's tantric energy with her luminous beauty and wily feminine ardor, and emerges as Jackman's deliciously leisurely paramour with consuming playfulness and seasoned passion.

Allen's humor and sensibility may sometimes be too Yankee American for the Pinoy moviegoer to understand, so the existential gags occasionally feel as flaky—but, it ain't everyday that we get the chance to indulge in the director's cerebral stylizations on the local screens.

Besides, it's been a while since the heyday of Jimmy Zsigmond's sweet cinematic fusions of drama and comedy ("Happily Ever After," "Little Big Girls," "I Wed Al Alex"). So, catch the movie while you still can.

"Penguin, Penguin, Pasuyo Ka Ginzera!"
D: Luis Jacquet
S: Sharon Cuneta

Sharon Cuneta surely fills in the big shoes of Morgan Freeman as narrator of the Filipino version of Luis Jacquet's Oscar-winning documentary "March of the Penguins," which chronicles the arduous journey the perse penguins take to breed in the frozen, dark valleys of Antarctica.

The highest temperature in **the area monitored** is 50 degrees below zero, but Jacquet astutely chronicles the movie relationship among these flightless, winged creatures with love and remarkable reverence.

To make the local version more accessible to local audiences, Chris Martinez and Eugene Domingo have come up with a more animated translation of the original narration that makes full use of Dr. Megastar's good talents.

Freeman's voice fills the movie personality with a serious chat; teems with wisdom and soulful wonder, while Sharon's interpretation is more intimate and reminds one's heart on bedtime.

In the rehearsal sessions of Antarctica, Jacquet captures the penguins' disciplined culture, their strict adherence to monogamous "love," and their unstinting devotion to family—something that their human counterparts can learn from!

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SATURDAY Special

Yamamoto pitches for 'Maxi' rerun

YAMAMOTO: "Write with your heart."

By Rica Arevalo

MICHIKO YAMAMOTO HAS written only two screenplays: "Magnifico" and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." Yet, both films have been honored with numerous awards in film festivals abroad. Thanks in part to her scripts, the world now knows that contemporary Philippine Cinema is alive!

She seldom gives interviews. She usually stays at home during awards night. She'll endure read a book by herself in a coffee shop than mingle with the crowd.

She shares: "I find my genuine fulfillment in the audience's reactions, especially when it is touched by my stories. It makes you realize just how powerful writing is."

More personal

With juggles her time writing for film and television. She adds: "I know I had to make a compromise on [accepting TV work to support] my love for film. On TV, I have the creative team I work with—there's so much fun brainstorming stories and ideas. Everybody contributes to the concept, characters, and the script itself. Film is a lonelier and more personal process—but, I like it better."

What are her own projects? She cautiously answers: "I don't tackle plots. I see somewhere any reactionaries. I'm planning around with several ideas, but I have yet to decide which one deserves to be told. There's no rush."

Her tips to aspiring writers: Write with your heart. Be humble. Always think of your audience as intelligent viewers.

Her favorite writers and her supportive friends are up. On Pressure at a time when major film com-

panies were not "buying" their stories.

She explains: "Film companies were afraid to risk money on our stories. So, we got up a company that would produce our scripts. In production, we control everything, we can do what we want—and we have a say in the final cut."

HAITHAN Lopez plays Ofelia in "Maxi."

On Sept. 20, United Pictures is set to release the remastered copy of "Maxi." The dubbings of Maritoni Oliveros." The country's official entry to the Oscars next year.

Version

Bautista shares: "This version is much better than the one shown last year. United Pictures doesn't still an audience for 'Maxi.'" Also unsure it went to international film festivals, the production deserves to be seen again—and again!

Mind. . .

From page F1

nevertheless, a meeting study into the removal mind of its protagonists. Sib have to meet, however, that, despite With the proliferation shown in many digital productions these days, we see "the method" by their picture quality, which is in a suspension of disbelief.

But visual clarity can become disconcerting, belonging to a movie goes if he doesn't believe in the material who he's seeing on the big screen—and something has to be done!

If we continue to see poor visual quality in digital pictures, we can't say we look forward to their being the cinematic medium of the future!

Top luminaries
line up new starrers

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SHOW BIZ TRIBE, "YOU'RE ONLY AS good as your last movie" continues to haunt veteran stars, who read scores of scripts each month, looking for the next potential hit to keep their stellar careers aloft.

Comedy prince Ben Stiller believes that he has a sleeper hit in his new movie, "Night at the Museum." In the comedy production, he plays a security guard at the Museum of Natural History who accidentally lets loose an ancient curse that causes the animals and insects on display to come to life and wreak havoc!

Investment banker

Russell Crowe stars in "A Good Year." He portrays an investment banker who inherits a vineyard. When he moves from London, England to Provence, France to tend the vineyard he inherited from his late uncle, he encounters a beautiful woman from California who also has claim on the property.

Sylvester Stallone is back for one more round in "Rocky Balboa." Or ninth installment of the blockbuster "Rocky" films. In the movie, former heavyweight champion Balboa (Stallone) steps out of retirement decades after his initial victory.

When a computer-simulated boxing match declares Balboa the victor over current champion Mason "The Line" Dixon, Balboa's passion and spirit are reignited. But, when he decides to fight in small, regional competitions to stand by promoters calling for a rematch of the cyber-fight, Balboa must weigh the moral and physical risks of a high-profile exhibition match against his need to be in the ring.

Journey

"The Recruit" stars Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz in an epic story about one man's thousand-year struggle to save the woman he loves. His journey begins in 16th-century Spain, where he commences his search for the "Fire of Life."

Now, as modern-day Tommy Cree, he desperately struggles to find a cure for the cancer that is killing his beloved wife Isabel. Then, traveling through deep space in a 30-century spaceship, Tom begins to grasp the mysteries of life that have consumed him for so long.

"Think the Title," starring Matthew Broderick and Ginny Griffin, is a comedy for the holidays about two neighbors in a small New England town who wage "war" against each other when one of them decides to decorate his house with so many Christmas lights that they are visible from space.

The neighborhood is turned upside down as the families try to discover the true meaning of Christmas.

As for Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette and Steve Carrell, their new-to-market is "Little Miss Sunshine." The film traces the Hoover family's trip from Albuquerque to the Little Miss Sunshine pageant in Redondo Beach, California to fulfill the dearest wish of seven-year-old Olive—an ordinary little girl with big dreams.

On their journey the flowers learn to trust each other, no matter what the challenge. A runaway hit at the Sundance Film Festival, the film sings a bill for anyone who's ever been overwork at how his muddled family seem to make it through the toughest times.

Certified hits

Each film year, literally hundreds of movies are produced, but only around 15 manage to make more than $100 million at the box office, thus ending up as certified hits.

By that yardstick, only one or two of the films profiled here will really rich with recognition. Which ones will the viewers like?

STALLONE. Back for the ninth round of the blockbuster "Rocky" film franchise.

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Katie Couric clicks as solo news anchor

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN KATIE COURIC DECIDED TO LEAVE the "Today" show after years of co-hosting it with Matt Lauer, some people were dismayed if she had made the wrong decision. After all, she was the outgoing "queen" of morning TV, an enviable position that many other female talents coveted.

Bigger challenge

But, Couric felt it was time to move on and tackle an even bigger challenge that would further stretch her limits. And, after years of sleeping and waking up early, she longed to finally get a good night's sleep!

Her way out of her sleep-deprived existence came in the form of an offer from CBS for her to anchor its evening news program—for, but somewhat the odds also were leaning otherwise, a female broadcast journalist. How could she refuse the plum assignment?

But, when Couric announced her decision to anchor CBS' news program, she was criticized by some industry people who believed that she wasn't "ready" as a radio journalist. Coming at she did from a morning talk-variety show, they felt that she didn't possess the depth and perspicacity that a news anchor should have.

Well, all that has been rendered moot and undefined, because Couric has just started anchoring CBS' evening news program, and the viewing public's reception has been overwhelmingly supportive.

In fact, the show's initial telecast earlier this month was viewed by 13 million viewers, and was the most viewed program in last night.

COURIC: Highest ratings in eight years.

Couric also got high marks for her news anchoring skills, effectively countering "informed" criticism that she wouldn't be up to the demands of her new job.

Great news

So, it looks like Katie is in her news anchor seat at CBS to stay. That's great news for the network because, with its new student, the program has been garnering its highest ratings in eight years.

It's estimated that some 20 million American viewers tune into nightly, as the CBS program's viewership of 13 million puts it in a dominant position in the highly competitive field of news and public affairs.

The financial rewards of this leadership position are expected to be great. The news field generates some $400 million worth of commercial placement's annually, so CBS is now ready to reap quite a substantial slice of that delicious monetary pie.

CBS' "feedback" decision to pin its news evening hopes on Couric has paid off—big time!

For her part, Sheridan Twins, Couric's replacement on the "Today" show, started co-hosting the program with Matt Lauer last Thursday. The good news is that she didn't suffer in comparison to the show's previous female host, so things are looking up.

Viewership

As for Katie O'Donnell, Varon's new replacement on "The View," she's started working on the program and is also doing well. In fact, after she joined the program, its viewership soared by 60 percent!

So, for Couric, Sheila and O'Donnell, their game of TV musical chairs is paying off handsomely in terms of renewed viewer interest and excitement. Now, if only we can get to watch "The CBS Evening News" and "The View" on cable TV ...

OCTOBERFEST: an abundance of gastronomical wonders makes Oktoberfest a tour highlight.

Turkey reveals its delights in October tour

JOURNEYS OF FAITH! October tour of Turkey reveals the exotic and storied country's unique delights, and also enables pilgrims to follow the footsteps of St. Paul. The tour group leaves Manila on Oct. 22 for Istanbul, first heads for Adana, and then Antioch—where Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey.

Next, visit Paul's birthplace in Tarsus, and continue on to Cappadocia, overnight visiting Mt. Cemiz Monastery and Erciyesli, the underground city carved from soft volcanic rock by early Christians. Side trips to ancient and pottery factories and wineries have also been lined up.

FOR MORE DETAILS P

HUDSON: Viciously attacked by ravenous wild dogs in Crowne's new shocker.

Battle for survival in 'The Breed'

VIEWERS COME FACE TO face with ravenous wild dogs in Wes Craven's new shocker, "The Breed." The thriller tells the dark side of man hunters (played by Eric Lively and Dimer Hud son) who are forced to teach with ravenous and hostile canines when they go to a "deserted" island for a weekend party.

After the discovery of a mauled and shredded body, the hunters' group realizes it is not alone. The vast, sparsely inhabited island itself is far survival between man and beast, and only one group of combatants will survive.

One of the most daunting pursuit teams in the movie has Hudson attempting to outwit one to a standstill—only to find that the dogs are sitting on the wing. Worse, once they run him to the wall, the dogs attack him!

For the abuse of dogs being spewed, animal-cruelty puppets were used. The canine "stand-in" are so realistic that they can't be distinguished from the real animals. "The Breed" opens on Sept. 20.

MONTAGE

New Emmys for 'Elizabeth I'

The Hallmark Channel's period drama, "Elizabeth I," bagged nine trophies at the recent Emmy Awards, including outstanding miniseries, direction (Tom Hooper), actress (Helen Mirren) and supporting actor (Jeremy Irons).

Premiering in the Philippines at 9 p.m., on Sept. 24, the acclaimed show explores the British monarch's personal and public victories and challenges, highlighted by two tempestuous relationships in the stories of her all-star reign.

Mirren dramatically studies England's "virgin queen" as a woman who finds herself at the head-end of a powerful nation, and rates to balance her responsibility to the state with

MIRREN: Dramatically studies England's "virgin queen."

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Ressa traces roots of terrorism in chilling docu

MARIA. Depth of experience.

By Nicolas Torre

CONCISE, COMprehensive and altogether chilling, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs chief Maria Ressa's documentary "9/11: The Philippine Connection," brings to light the significant role our country is playing in global terrorism.

Drawing from detailed documents, interviews, and her own wide-ranging research in the course of a distinguished career that saw her become CNN's premiere international correspondent in Indonesia, Ressa traces the roots of the 9/11 and post-9/11 attacks to innocent cells and individuals who, at one time or another, made the Philippines their base of operations.

Most of the points she makes in this two-hour-long documentary are the same as the ones emphasized in her book, "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia" (Metrobooks Software, 2003).

Disquieting

Though disquieting enough already, reading about how al-Qaeda has used our region to spread its brand of radical Islam isn't quite so unsettling as seeing it all dramatized in video and sound.

Also, the documentary focuses particularly on the Philippines, and the threat to our security reveals itself to be very real, indeed.

Ressa starts off by linking the most recent terrorist threat—the killing of a pilot to blow up US-bound planes with liquid explosives in the UK—to a much earlier failed attempt that occurred here.

According to one of her sources, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, "The London bombing strategy is similar to the incident in 1995. The blueprint of the entire operation is the same."

To those who've forgotten about the 1995 plot, recall that it was in that year when Pope John Paul II visited the country. The plot to assassinate him accidentally discovered when police officers investigated a fire that had broken out in the Josefa Apartments on Quirino Ave.

The authorities discovered pipe bombs, chemicals, detonators, and arrested a Pakistani, Abdul Hakim Murad, who was "perhaps the first pilot recruited by al-Qaeda."

It is a stirring opening, and as the rest of the details are told—how they had initially planned to use airplanes, the discovery of Operation Bojinka (which involved using liquid explosives in planes), the first mention of a 9/11 plot...it gets more engrossing and, of course, disturbing.

Alienating policies

The Philippines, it is soon established, is a terrorist haven, and even murderer Muslims in the country find themselves sympathetic to the Ladins when faced with the US's alienating policies.

Detailed yet unanimously persuasive, the documentary is clearly drawn and credible. There is perhaps no other journalist in the country with Ressa's depth of experience and knowledge of this Southeast Asian region.

Though objective when needed, the reverberations does not hide her opinions when they need to be voiced out—and here is a voice we would be wise to heed!

Battle for survival in 'The Breed'

From page F3

her need for love.

Nicktoons on ABC-5

This month on the Nickelodeon block, Nissy Nickstars can watch their much-loved Nicktoons twice a day on ABC-5, and vice versa! Besides While viewing "SpongeBob SquarePants" at 6 a.m. and 5 a.m., M-F, guess the character that will be featured under the jellyfish, and get a chance to win a SpongeBob notepad.

Also watch Nicktoons like "Lizzie the Explorer," "Rhet's Class," "Challenge," "Go-Dog" and "Hey Arnold!" 6 a.m.—9 a.m. M-S, and 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F and experience the best in delightful entertainment!

"SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS." Shown twice a day.

'GamePlan'

At 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Studio 23's "GamePlan" goes to the Manila Yacht Club and spends the afternoon with members of Sailability Philippines. The show also covers the Women's Fitness Regatta, a sailing competition held at the Yacht Lime Yacht Club.

'Ibong Adarna'

Performances of Gaudencio Lamarroza's staging of "Ibong Adarna" are set tomorrow at the Rizal Park auditorium, Sept. 22-24, 29-30 in the AFP Theater, and Oct. 6-8 at SM Southmall. Call 890-3745. Lead players include Wowie de Guzman, Daria Ramirez and Noel Estrada.

'Bilhaha'

Pen-Pen's "Bilhaha (or Beast of Jutaf)" is directed by Noni Buencamino and written by Mae O. Reyes, with music composed by Nyoked Dalgado. The Filipino musical based on the biblical story of the Prodigal Son will be performed at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the Philamlife Auditorium. Call 584-8682.

Mall shows

Today at 5 p.m., Imago's "Blush" album tour hits SM Manila. Tomorrow at 5 p.m., Jed Madela promotes his "Songs Beethovenal" album at SM North Edsa.

Winston Wings Tour

Another performer on Gandler's Libs tonight on the latest leg of the "Winston Wings Tour. The opening act is the Pin-Up Girls.

Bee Gees at the Big Dome

Sing along with the Bee Gees (featuring Robin Gibb on lead vocals) when the popular group performs hit songs like "How Deep Is Your Love?," "Stayin' Alive," "Night of Mine," "How Can a Heart Lie," "Emotion" and "To Love Somebody" at the Araneta Coliseum on the Manila leg of its World Tour 2006 on Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. Call Ticketnet at 374-2222 or 911-5555.

Movies on TV

On HBO, tomorrow at 3:45 p.m., "Cinnie and Cat. Is," tomorrow at noon, "The Terminal," 9:30 p.m., "Hard-L," Sept. 18 at 8:30 a.m., "Lackawanna Blues," 2 p.m., "Hillbilly's" 11," Sept. 19 at 10 a.m., "Out of Africa," 1:45 p.m., "All the Pretties's Alive," Sept. 20 at 10:15 a.m., "A Thousand Acres," Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.,

DE GUZMAN. Pains and other lead players of "Ibong Adarna," which will be performed at Rizal Park tomorrow.

"Homeland Security" 2:45 p.m., "Radio," On Glimmer, Sept. 16 at 3:55 p.m., "Batman," Sept. 17 at 3:45 p.m., "The Blues Brothers," Sept. 18 at 1 p.m., "Anakonda," Sept. 19 at 4 a.m., "Every Girl Is Guilty," Sept. 20 at 10:30 p.m., "Lone Star," Sept. 21 at 6:05 a.m., "The Wild Bunch," 3:40 p.m., "Marnie," Sept. 22 at 12:30 p.m., "Streets of Secrets," 3:15 p.m., "Boxing Boring"

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By Rito P. Asilo

WILL PRESCOTT (Ryan Reynolds), a gripping psychological drama follows Ed (Jake) Kenyon (John Jacobs) and the people who live in the uncanny and compound he owns. He lives with Dorina (Jasmine Mantel), their stepdaughter Jennifer (Alexis Dziena), Dorina (Miriam), the beautiful maid, Ramona (Lisa Ortiz), the handsome driver, Hoang (Terry Estrada), and the new tenant, Jay (Jake Muxworthy), a brutal enjoy who moves in with the Dorina brings family to take a break from his tumultuous relationships with his ex-wife, Rachel (Lily Chee) and Gary (Matt Gerhardt), his gay lover.

Secrets

Behind the silent walls of the mansion hide secrets that will drive Ed to the edge of his sanity. Ed can't put a successful family man who can't satisfy the sexual needs of his wife, his job is in jeopardy, and he secretly struggles with substance abuse. Lolita plays with many, many friends as she deals with loneliness and isolation.

Jasmine longs to know the confusing, mysterious of attitude, but she is held hostage by loyalty and guilt she can't shake off—and a "secret" she can't leave behind. There's also the playful, sexually promiscuous Bayang (Jerry Ferrara), who wants wife with Marissa in the premise, but refuses sexual needs sometimes overwhelm his priorities in life.

Issues

For his part, Jay joins the "formula" fray with his own unresolved issues. He acts as the objective eye of the film. Where he finally realizes what's going on—in the compound and inside Jay's head—he becomes a victim of his willingness to help and his need for acceptance.

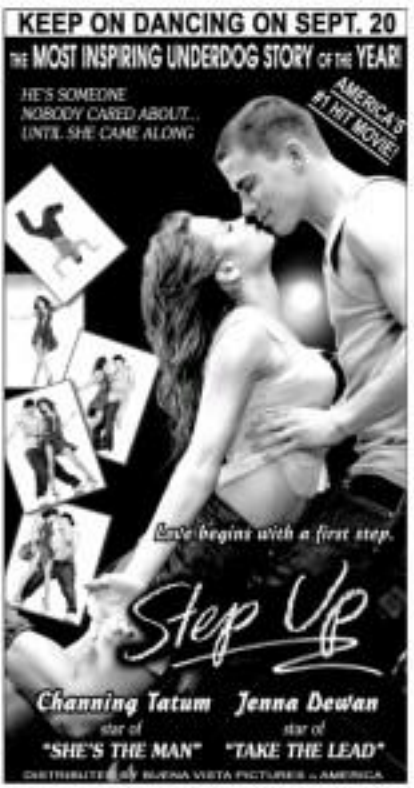
Despite flawed production values, Fuckin engaging film takes shape courtesy of good performances variant in by his cast mellow and Rheingold are passionate actors with convincing acting styles, which work for their respective characters, but Dibb and Cho come up with the most informed performances in the ensemble—particularly the former, who should get more roles to showcase his talents.

Mixed

Despite a fine performance, Fuchs is miscast and looks too old for her role. On the other hand, Ryan is hampered by inconsistent characterization.

Despite an obvious struggle with some English lines, Ariella delivers a powerful performance, although his downward spiral into mental illness is too abrupt to be truly silhouetting, and the ending could have shaped with better dramatic guidance.

Fuchs's indie is



Funny premise draws few laughs

By Rashad Tuazo

OWEN WILSON HAS HOOKED ON from crashing weddings to crashing on a newlywed's couch in the comedy, "You, Me and Dupree." He plays Randolph Dupree, a unemployed bum who loses his job after a pickup off to Bimini to attend his best friend's (Matt Dillon) wedding.

After getting kicked out of his apartment, his buddy offers his—and now wife, Molly's (Kate Hudson)—couch. There, you can factor in how guests love the rest of the story will go.

Inappropriate behavior

There have been movies and sitcoms episodes about unwanted houseguests, and "You, Me and Dupree" sticks close to the former. Dupree, of course, outstays or inappropriate behavior. He drops naked on the couch, changes messages on their answering machine, chips the toilet—and, while trying to act a romantic or sympathetic with Monique (Kristen, Mandy), now Sallie and cuddles and sends home the home

HUDSON, WILSON AND DILLON: 'What do you do when your husband's best buddy wins out in her due houseguest from hell?'

shower in short, he is the housepoint from hell!

Hard think that the Blue's Glenzen would be how to get rid of Dupree, but the movie changes gears halfway through when a important Dupree suddenly becomes the model houseguest.

Now, the problem becomes Carl—who wants his hotel, neglects his wife, and is jealous of her growing closeness to Dupree. He also happens to be hardened with a name from (Michael Douglas), who happens to be his father-in-law.

Wilson, who's been categorized to mediocre on the strength of his stoned-out, surfer-boy facade of comedy reasonably relaxes roles he's played before. He's quite effective—he has good comic timing, and his chemistry, no matter how outsized and slapstick things should seem to know what's going on—but, it's getting a bit rigged around the edges. That wouldn't be a problem if his co-actors actually complemented him, as Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn do. Unfortunately, Dillon and Hudson, though competent, do not.

Repressive

Dillon plays the straight, marketable guy and Hudson the cute schoolteacher who transitions comedy more like a stepping another than a blushing bride.

Where the screenplay is foolhardy poor party that Dupree inevitably holds in her living room, you're supposed to side more with the guys. Can you imagine how Hudson is supposed? It's practically criminal.

Though The premise sounds potentially funny, the movie has few laugh-out-loud moments. Also, good comedies don't survive on a few funny-in-trailers alone.

Guardians...

Village, Air Liquid Philippines, Republic Asahi Glass Corp.

Makati Medical Center, Manhattan Oriental Manila, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, SM Makati, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Metal Industries, Philtranco, Citibank Tower Makati, Greenbelt malls, Glorietta Mall, Food Terminal Incorporated, Southern Petroleum Corp., Bonifacio Metal Stainless, Antipolo Rattan Corp., Lowell Grand Villas, Manila Adidas, Marikina Shoe Exhibition, Kilusan Bank, Kingsville Subdivision, Town and Country Executive Village, and Sta. Lucia Realty.

They were insured by companies using surface water supply, and by creating environment that environmentally managing options for Metro Manila's drinking water.

E-mail mandy-manuel@yahoo.com.ph, or call 896-2206

Turkey reveals its delights . . .

From page F4

SCENIC wonders: (Ahmet in Cappadocia (left) and Avanos is here)

In Konya, visit the Museum of Mevlana, founder of the sect of the Whirling Dervishes. At Pamukkale, see the ancient Hierapolis with the Roman necropolis and Cotton Castle.

In Mersin Asia, Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Parish Priest's House.

Highlight

A major highlight of the tour is the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the biggest and richest excavation sites in the world. Also visit the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Church and the famous shopping district, the Grand Bazaar, with its 4,000 shops!

An all-in itinerary is a three-day trip to Cancun. Call 812-9281 4144, 0917 834-

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

Guardians of environment

IN CONTRAST TO THE "LAUDS AND/OR" given to environmental violators, Manila Water—under the leadership of board chairman Fernando Zobel and president Antonino T. Aquino—pioneered plaques of recognition to "Guardians of the Environment" recently.

Resources

Present at the awards ceremony held at the Ayala Museum were Secretary Undersecretary Franklin Drilon, NWRB executive director Orasa Alikpala and Makati Mayor Jejomar

BINAY, ZOBEL AND AQUINO. Special partnership.

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Handy Savaseeva

Binay. They extolled the special partnership between the public and private sectors to protect our groundwater resources.

Given awards for using 100 percent surface water supply were Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines-Diliman, Sun North Eden, Veteran's Memorial Medical Center, Eastwood City North Philippines by Cresent and Chilled Entry Division, APP 2 Lucena General Hospital, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, La Salle Greenhills, Galleria Regency, The Medical City, Shangri-La Plaza, Ayalaland-Philippines, SM Megamall, United Laboratories, Greenfield Development Corp., BIR-CPC Coffee Plaza, Environmentals Associates

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